

Jordan Times

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Iraq reports heavy raids on Iranians

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi planes continued to pound Iranian troop concentrations on the south-central and southern war fronts on Sunday, reporting 160 sorties flown with the loss of one aircraft. A high command communiqué said columns of smoke poured into the air from targets hit in the raids, in which it said there was also heavy loss of life. Intensive Iraqi raids started four days ago amid reports from both sides that Iran was preparing to launch a fresh offensive in the five-year-old Gulf conflict. The communiqué also said a jet was downed during the raids, the first time in more than four months that Iraq has conceded the loss of a warplane. Iran said an Iraqi plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near the Majnoon Islands on the southern front. Cypriot tanker hit in Gulf, page 2

Arens ends secret trip to U.S.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli cabinet minister Moshe Arens returned on Sunday from a secret mission to the United States where he discussed the case of a U.S. navy intelligence analyst charged with spying for Israel, government sources said. Israel Radio said that on his return, Arens reported to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who authorised the mission. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin also attended the meeting, the radio said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to say whom Arens met during his weekend visit, but they confirmed a radio report that Arens had gone to discuss the spying affair. The sources said Israeli and U.S. officials have arranged the ground rules for U.S. Justice and State Department officials to question Israelis linked to the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard. Earlier story on page 2

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Jordanians need not have residence permits in Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Egyptian government will on Tuesday cancel orders requiring Jordanians to obtain residence permits in Egypt, according to an official source in Cairo. The source said that the decision will be made in implementation of resolutions passed by the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee at its last meeting in Cairo, held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart Ali Lutfi. The Egyptian move will benefit thousands of Jordanian students at Egyptian universities, the source added. Egyptian workers employed in Jordan are not required to obtain residence permits here, but they are required to have work permits.

Herzog frees 2 Israeli terrorists

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog has freed two Jews in an anti-Arab terrorist underground group who were imprisoned for plotting to blow up one of Islam's most sacred mosques in Jerusalem, his office told Reuters on Sunday. Dan Be'eri and Yosef Tzuria were part of a group of 27 Israelis jailed for anti-Arab attacks, Be'eri and Tzuria, imprisoned since 1984, were convicted of plotting to blow up Al Aqsa Mosque.

PLF denies role in Paris blasts

BAGHDAD (R) — An official of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) denied on Sunday the front was in any way connected with two bomb explosions in Paris department stores which injured 35 people. A PLF information official here told Reuters his organisation had "no relation to all" with the explosions shortly before closing time on Saturday (see page 8). "The PLF reaffirms once again its denunciation of all sorts of terrorism and acts of violence aimed at innocent people and civilians," the official said.

2nd bomb in 2 days hurts 1 in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb exploded in a sports store near the headquarters of the Iranian news agency IRNA on Sunday, injuring a shopkeeper, IRNA reported. It was the second bomb explosion in Tehran in two days. A nine-kilogramme car bomb damaged a hospital on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 18, police said.

Dumas due in Tel Aviv

PARIS (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was to leave early Monday for a two-day official visit to Israel. Mr. Dumas was to meet Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who was in Paris Oct. 25. Mr. Dumas was scheduled to meet twice, Monday and Tuesday, with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He also was to visit the Knesset Monday and to meet Tuesday with a group of Palestinian personalities at the French consulate in Jerusalem.

King Fahd reportedly proposes secret plan to end Iran-Iraq war

Saudi leaders confer with Velayati

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Sunday proposed an undisclosed peace proposal to end the five-year-old Gulf war to visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Arab diplomatic sources said.

The sources, quoted by the Associated Press, said the plan, outlined to Mr. Velayati by King Fahd during a meeting on Sunday, included a programme for warring Iran and Iraq to rebuild their economies and coexist. King Fahd underscored to the Iranians the futility of a protracted war with Iraq and explained his desire for peace in the Gulf region, despite bellicose statements attributed to Mr. Velayati and other ranking Iranian officials, the sources added. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that Mr. Velayati was accompanied with a high-powered delegation during the meeting with the king, with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal attending. Defence Minister Prince Sultan also attended the meeting, the agency said. King Fahd's meeting with Mr. Velayati was the highest-level contact between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. Prince Saud also held separate talks with Mr. Velayati, SPA said. It gave no details. Mr. Velayati arrived here on Saturday hoping to mend fences with Saudi Arabia, which has been a major financial and political supporter of Iraq. Commenting on his visit, the Saudi newspaper Al Jazeera said Sunday: "The kingdom considers Iran and Iraq sister nations linked by Islam... ending their war is not an impossibility as long as there is a desire for peace..." "This is the last one hopes from Velayati's visit," Prince Saud said on Saturday he would discuss with Mr. Velayati efforts to find a quick end to the conflict. But in Tehran on Sunday the official news agency IRNA said the Iranian minister had told him that "the Iraq-imposed war must be continued until the final victory of the Iranian forces." IRNA said that Mr. Velayati "welcomed the recent move of a number of the countries of the region toward neutrality." This was seen as an allusion to a Gulf summit conference statement, issued last month in Muscat, Oman, on the Iran-Iraq war. The statement, signed by the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, was widely interpreted as a new Gulf initiative to end the conflict. Riyadh-based Arab diplomats told the AP the Iranians have not indicated any willingness to ease their stated conditions for ending the war with Iraq. In spite of intransigent tones by the Iranians, Saudi Radio in a news commentary expressed hopes that Mr. Velayati's visit here "would prove to be the harbingers of efforts toward terminating the war and consolidating pan-Islamic solidarity."

King, Pirzadeh discuss peace efforts

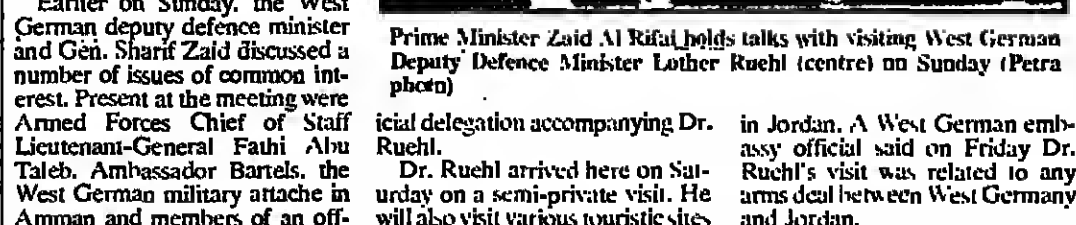
AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday briefed Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh on Jordan's efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Pirzadeh discussed Jordan's support for a just and honourable settlement to the Palestinian problem. The King also voiced total support for efforts being carried out by the OIC to ensure cooperation and strong relations among Islamic countries, Petra said. The King and Mr. Pirzadeh also discussed current issues of concern to Islamic nations. The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Jaseem. Later, Mr. Pirzadeh conferred with Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament. Mr. Lawzi briefed the OIC secretary-general on Israel's illegal practices and its continued drive to Judaize Arab lands in Palestine and Jerusalem and its policy of evicting Arabs from their land and denying them their legitimate rights. Mr. Lawzi also voiced appreciation for the OIC for its endeavours to bolster cooperation among Islamic countries. The dangers inherent in the Iran-Iraq war makes it incumbent on all Islamic nations and the OIC to double their efforts for finding a solution to the conflict, Mr. Lawzi said. He expressed hope that Mr. Pirzadeh's endeavours to end the conflict will be crowned with success. Mr. Pirzadeh also held a meeting with Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad on Sunday. The minister briefed him on Jordan's programme for restoring and caring for the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad in implementation of King Hussein's directives. Dr. Assad, president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AI al Baith Foundation), briefed Mr. Pirzadeh on the foundation's programme to safeguard Islamic heritage. Mr. Pirzadeh said he was willing to attend the foundation's annual meeting due to be held in April next year.



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday (Petra photo)

King receives W. German deputy defence chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Sunday visiting West German Deputy Defence Minister Lother Ruehl and reviewed with him bilateral issues. The meeting was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Dr. Ruehl was also received on Sunday by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai at the Prime Ministry. Attending the meeting was West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels. Earlier on Sunday, the West German deputy defence minister and Gen. Sharif Zaid discussed a number of issues of common interest. Present at the meeting were Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, Ambassador Bartels, the West German military attache in Amman and members of an official delegation accompanying Dr. Ruehl. Dr. Ruehl arrived here on Saturday on a semi-private visit. He will also visit various tourist sites in Jordan. A West German embassy official said on Friday Dr. Ruehl's visit was related to any arms deal between West Germany and Jordan.



Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai holds talks with visiting West German Deputy Defence Minister Lother Ruehl (centre) on Sunday (Petra photo)

46 Deir Alla students taken ill after inhaling gas

SALT (Petra) — Forty-six girl students from Deir Alla town in the Jordan Valley have been hospitalised in Salt and Wadi Al Yahas after inhaling gases that affect the nervous system causing slight dizziness and difficulty in breathing, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday. The statement said teams from the Health Ministry, the Royal Scientific Society and the Water Authority visited the school and the neighbouring area to investigate into the source of the gas which is believed to have resulted from misuse of some chemical substances used in agriculture. The teams, assisted by the Public Security Directorate and the Civil Defence Department, are continuing their investigations, the statement added. Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and other officials visited the school to inquire about the health of the students. A total of 12 students are receiving treatment at Al Hussein Hospital in Salt and 34 are at Abu Obeida Hospital, and their condition is good and satisfactory, the statement said.

OPEC 'ready for price war'

GENEVA (AP) — OPEC oil ministers said on Sunday they may be willing to let oil prices fall, perhaps below \$20 a barrel, if that would help them preserve their dwindling share of the market. No final decision had been made but several ministers said a consensus was emerging within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for a fundamental shift away from trying to support the widely flouted OPEC price of \$28 a barrel. "We do intend to preserve our share of the market and protect it," Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani told reporters as he entered an evening meeting of all 13 OPEC ministers. The result, some said, could be a global price war next year when a seasonal dropoff in oil demand would heighten sales competition between OPEC members and independent producers such as Britain. "The prevailing attitude among ministers on Sunday was, 'we stop here' in trying to hold up prices at the cost of losing customers to non-OPEC competitors," said Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto. "There is the feeling that OPEC is entitled to have a share of the market and not decrease the share anymore," Mr. Subroto told reporters. Defending that share, he said, will mean "price competition." Independent producers have succeeded in grabbing business from OPEC in recent years because they have allowed their prices to move up and down with market trends. OPEC, on the other hand, has stubbornly sought to impose a fixed price. Now OPEC may be ready to switch its tactics. "The idea," said Fernando Santos Alviré, the deputy oil minister of Ecuador, "is to say, okay, OPEC's share of the market is so much. We are willing, ready and willing, to defend it no matter what the cost." Tam David-West, the oil minister of Nigeria, underscored this change in thinking in a written statement to reporters, in which he said Nigeria could not afford to let competitors grab away its business. He said he was ready to "meet the threat" posed by non-OPEC members Britain and Norway by competing with them "barrel by barrel and cent by cent." None of the ministers indicated he was inviting a price war. But many said it may be the only way to reverse the recent trend of declining OPEC influence in the oil market.

Masri denies Murphy sought to revive 1977 Geneva Declaration on Mideast

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The foreign minister, Mr. Taher Masri, has denied reports that Mr. Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, had been trying to breathe new life into the U.S.-Soviet Declaration of October 1977 concerning the Middle East. "The superpower declaration of Oct. 1, 1977 was not raised by Mr. Murphy during his visit to Jordan and the area last week," Mr. Masri said in an interview with the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Rai on Sunday. "But Jordan still insists on holding an international conference, in which all concerned parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), participate," Mr. Masri said, adding that the international conference is the best way to solve the Palestinian problem. The Oct. 1, 1977, communiqué called for a "comprehensive" settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, "incorporating all parties concerned and questions." It said the U.S. and the Soviet Union, in their capacity as co-chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, believe that, "within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Mideast problem, all specific questions of the settlement should be resolved, including such key issues as withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the 1967 conflict; the resolution of the Palestinian question, including insuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; termination of the state of war and establishment of normal peaceful relations on the basis of mutual recognition of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence." The communiqué also said the two superpowers were ready to participate in guaranteeing the "security of the borders between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries."



Taher Al Masri

'Dhaka Declaration calls for end to nuclear weapon tests

DHAKA (Agencies) — Seven South Asian leaders issued a "Dhaka Declaration" on Sunday at the end of their first-ever summit, calling for an end to nuclear weapons testing and sharply criticizing falling international economic aid for developing countries. "The leaders called upon the nuclear weapons states for urgent negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty leading to the complete cessation of testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons," the declaration said. They also hoped the Geneva summit last month between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would have a "positive effect on international peace and security." They said international financial institutions had shown a "diminishing capacity" to respond effectively to the needs of the disadvantaged and poorer countries and condemned "the structural imbalances and inequities in the existing international economic system." The leaders, who launched the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), represent one of the world's poorest regions with a population of about one billion. Expressing regret that "the spirit of multilateral cooperation has begun to falter and weaken," they said they were convinced their countries could together "play their role in international relations and influence decisions which affect them." They said economic growth was seriously retarded because of "sharply falling commodity prices, deterioration in terms of trade, intensification of protectionist measures (and) a spiralling debt burden." The declaration said the leaders were conscious that peace and security in South Asia were necessary before they could make the optimum use of their human and material resources. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the U.N. Charter, pledging to settle disputes peacefully, avoid the use of force and not interfere in each other's internal affairs. A SAARC charter signed at the end of the summit, held in Dhaka's futuristic national parliament, said the new regional group aimed at contributing to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems. It said the leaders, meeting for the first time since British rule ended on the subcontinent in 1947, would gather at least once a year from now on. The declaration also called for early convening of an international conference on money and finance for development with worldwide participation. Th South Asian leaders said

40 Cubans held in Zaire after emergency landing

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire is holding 40 Cuban soldiers whose Soviet Antonov plane made an emergency landing during a flight between Luena in Angola to the small Angolan enclave of Cabinda. Official sources said Zaire was investigating why the Cubans, together with three Angolans and a Cameroonian, burnt the plane and tried to hide their documents. The heavily-armed soldiers, captured by Zairean gendarmes, were presented on state television Saturday night. But official sources said Zaire did not want to dramatise the incident or inflame relations with its southern neighbour Angola. The plane landed last Sunday at Kinshasa, some 300 kilometres south-east of Zaire's capital, Kinshasa. The soldiers spent the night on board before setting it alight. Relations between Zaire and Angola improved early this year after a visit to Kinshasa by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Pope says church wants to improve earthly life

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said on Sunday the Roman Catholic Church desired to be part of the modern world and was committed to making life on earth more worthy of man. "The church in the modern world," the Pope said. "She desires with all her strength to serve, so that human life on earth may be ever more worthy of man," he added. Dressed in gold-and-white vestments, the pontiff said the synod had "accomplished the purpose for which it was convoked — to celebrate, verify and promote the council."

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Cypriot tanker damaged in Iraqi missile attack

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Cypriot supertanker *Polys* emerged Sunday in the Gulf waters with a gaping hole in its bow section, hours after Iraq announced its warplanes fired rockets at a "large maritime target," near the Iranian coast, marine salvage executives in Bahrain and Dubai reported.

The 239,604-ton *Polys* had taken on a full load of Iranian crude oil from the terminal at Kharg Island in the north eastern part of the Gulf waterway and was not far from the vital Iranian facility when attacked Saturday night, the executives said.

According to these executives, the Iraqi-fired missile struck the front part of the tanker above the waterline but did not cause serious damage.

"The missile must have gone right through the bow as there was no fire reported by the captain," said a Bahrain-based executive who refused to be identified. "The captain only reported a hole above the waterline in the bow section."

The vessel was able to continue sailing in a southward direction and would probably be directed by Iranian patrol boats to an Iranian

port for repairs since it was carrying an Iranian oil cargo load, according to the shipping sources. None of the 34-member crew, which included five Greek officers, suffered any injuries in the attack, the executives said.

Iraq reported its warplanes hit another "large naval target" in the Gulf near the Iranian coast.

A military spokesman said the aircraft returned safely to base after scoring an "accurate and effective hit" at 9:45 p.m. (1845 GMT) Saturday night.

He gave no other details and regional shipping sources had an immediate report of any shipping in trouble.

More than 160 oil tankers and merchant ships have been confirmed hit in the waterway by Iraq and Iran since March last year in the so-called tanker war, an extension of their five-year old ground conflict.

Arens flies on secret mission to Washington

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens flew to the United States this weekend on a secret diplomatic mission amid concern over accusations that a U.S. navy civilian employee sold secrets to Israel, state radio reported Sunday.

The radio said Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent Mr. Arens, a minister without portfolio and former ambassador to Washington, to consult American officials over recent differences between the two allies.

Spokesmen for Mr. Arens and Mr. Peres refused to comment on the report. The radio reported Israeli attorney Ram Caspi would return Sunday after talks in Washington with Israeli and American officials over the accusations about the U.S. Navy employee, Jonathan Pollard, 31.

U.S. officials said on Friday that a government team headed by former federal judge Abraham Sofaer would arrive this week in Israel to conduct interviews. Israel apologized over the affair last week and promised to bring to account anyone involved.

Pollard and his wife Anne Henderson-Pollard, 25, are in custody while prosecutors collect evidence to present to a grand jury which will decide on any charges against the couple.

During a news conference Friday, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said, "we expect matters to go forward expeditiously and properly."

"We have every reason to believe that the issues involved will be resolved satisfactorily," he said.

The team wants to ask the Israelis about their affiliation with Pollard.

Pollard reportedly has told investigators that he and his wife went to Israel twice within the past year, and that the trips were financed by his unidentified contact there.

Oxfam concerned at Ethiopian resettlement policy

LONDON (R) — The British Charity Organisation Oxfam has disclosed that it had protested to the Ethiopian government over its resettlement policy in famine areas.

"We have protested to the Ethiopian government. We have also told the United Nations and the British government of our anxieties," said Oxfam spokesman Paddy Coulter.

His statement followed the expulsion from Ethiopia last month of the French charity organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres after it complained about what it said was the use of violence to force people to migrate from their homes in the north regions.

Meanwhile Sudan has accepted the mediation of South Yemen to improve relations with its southern neighbour Ethiopia, the Sudan News Agency said Saturday.

SUNA quoted Gen. Yousef Hussein, spokesman for the ruling Transitional Military Council, as saying that Gen. Swareddahab had received a message to that effect from South Yemen's President Ali Nasser.

It was unknown if a similar approach had been made to Ethiopia.

SUNA said South Yemen's offer was delivered by its Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Ali Dali who departed Friday after a three-day official visit.

Gen. Swareddahab led the April 6 ouster of former President Jaafar Numeiri who regarded Ethiopia as a bitter enemy which trained southern Sudanese dissidents and allowed them to launch attacks on government troops from Ethiopian soil.

Cypriots vote for new parliament

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou voted early in parliamentary elections Sunday and forecast increased backing for his party in the divided island's new, enlarged House of Representatives.

"I expect a considerable rise in support," Mr. Kyprianou said.

His political opponents forced the early election after a row over his handling of talks to try to end the split in Cyprus between Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

Voting is compulsory for the 346,500 registered electors and large groups turned out in brilliant sunshine to watch leaders of the four main parties cast their ballots.

Rightwing Rally leader, Glafcos Clerides, predicted he would win 36 per cent support. Mr. Kyprianou's Democratic Party between 21-24 per cent support, the Communist Akel 32-33, and the Socialist Edele 8-10 per cent.

Communist Akel leader Ezikiyas Pappalounou, casting his vote, said: "The election will prove Akel is the first party."

The hard-fought election campaign focussed on the issue of who should decide the future of the Mediterranean island, split since

Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third in 1974 after a coup engineered by the junta that then ruled Greece.

Left and right-wing opposition parties forced the election a year early after a row over President Kyprianou's handling of United Nations-sponsored talks in January when attempts to set up a federal state with Turkish Cypriots failed.

Mr. Kyprianou, who is an executive president, rejects opposition claims a new president could reach a compromise accord and has resisted demands for his resignation, saying he plans to serve out his five-year term that runs to 1988.

The 226 candidates from four main political groups are competing for 56 seats for a five-year term in the House of Representatives, which previously had only 35 seats.

A further 24 seats are reserved for Turkish Cypriots, who withdrew from the house in 1963 and have set up a breakaway state in northern Cyprus recognised only by Turkey.

In the old house, elected in 1981, Akel had 12 seats, Rally 11, the Democrats nine and Edele three.

Although Akel and Rally, who had 23 seats between them, have campaigned separately, they are seeking a two-thirds majority in the new house saying this would enable them to force early presidential elections.

Greek Cypriot politicians have welcomed a tough stand by Greece on the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island. Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has urged Greek Cypriots not to compromise over the withdrawal of Turkish troops.

The leader of the small Socialist Party, Vassos Lysiarides, noted after voting that an opinion poll two weeks ago showed a 20 per cent undecided vote, making any prediction "difficult."

That poll, the Middle East Research and Marketing Bureau, was the only one taken. It showed the Rally Party receiving 30 per cent of the votes, Akel 29 per cent, Diko 24 per cent, the Socialists 11 per cent, and the two independent candidates 5 per cent.

A total of 346,000 Greek Cypriots are eligible to elect the 56-member parliament.

Morocco worried by Spain's new law

MADRID (R) — Morocco has told Spain it is deeply worried about the effect Spain's new aliens law will have on the well-being of Moroccan living in the Spanish North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, diplomatic sources have said.

They said Spain's ambassador in Rabat, Raimundo Bassols, had been summoned by the Moroccan government four times in the past week to be informed about King Hassan's "grave disquiet" at the new law.

The law makes illegal residents liable for expulsion unless they put their papers in order by February.

Many of the 38,000 Muslims of Ceuta and Melilla come from Morocco and bitterly oppose the law.

Spain has assured Rabat there will not be any mass expulsions of Moroccans and that the new law will be applied "with generosity," the sources said.

Tension over the law has particularly affected Melilla, where 54,000 Spaniards and 31,000 Muslims live. Only 7,000 of the 75,000 inhabitants of Ceuta, which is less dependent on trade with Morocco, are Muslim.

Thousands of Spaniards marched through Melilla Friday in support of the law.

Muslim shops in Melilla shut down Saturday in protest at Friday's demonstration, which Muslim leader Aomar Mobamedi Duda said was "racist and fascist."

Morocco has not pressed too strongly its sovereignty claims over the cities, controlled by Spain for more than four centuries, but has warned it would do so when Spain recovered the British colony of Gibraltar.

Traffic chaos keeps west Beirut at near standstill

By William MacLean

Beirut — A teenager moves out of a shadowy sidewalk onto a quiet evening in west Beirut, flags down a passing car and thrusts an anti-tank grenade launcher through the window.

A muttered threat, and seconds later the car, a Western embassy vehicle, drives off as its owners stand helpless on the pavement. Car theft at gunpoint is a routine risk if you drive in Beirut.

At a traffic jam, two men climb into a car and put a pistol to the driver's head. He swings the vehicle out of the traffic, runs it into a wall and as the crowds gather makes his escape.

Beirut's trigger-happy ways make driving in the city a nerve-racking obstacle course of militiamen, kidnappings, gunbattles, roadblocks — and spectacular driving habits.

"It's a punishment to drive in Beirut. You never know where the risk is coming from," said a Lebanese journalist, one of thousands of car owners to have given up driving.

"It's chaos plus traffic jams. I feel I'm jumping out of my skin, so I prefer to be driven instead."

The city comes to a standstill whenever militia fighting erupts. Panicking pedestrians risk being run over as cars speed to safety with horns blaring.

Even in times of relative quiet, the effects of 10 years of civil war keep some neighbourhoods virtually paralysed.

Some streets are blocked by earthworks, checkpoints, barbed wire — even tanks — and dozens of fire lines with metal posts, chains and earth-filled oil drums to stop would-be car bombers.

In mainly Muslim west Beirut, stalling ground for half a dozen militiamen, traffic lights stopped blinking years ago.

Public transport is another casualty. Dozens of buses used as barricades lie rusting on the "Green Line" front, although in Christian east Beirut the dominant militia runs a skeleton service in some areas.

West Beirut traffic police can only watch when car-borne gunmen fire machineguns skywards to clear their path.

"Whenever I see these crazy people coming, I tell my pupil to pull over and watch how not to behave," said Samir, a driving instructor who declares war has put him out of a job.

"If a beautiful girl comes for lessons, some of us will not accept her for fear she might be kidnapped. And if we do take her, she must remove her jewellery because of the thieves."

Normal rules of the road are ignored, possibly because young drivers are unaware they exist. Driving licences can be bought for 700 Lebanese pounds (\$40) on the black market and boys can drive trucks with impunity.

But fighting remains the biggest risk on the road.

Gerard, a businessman, almost lost his life when he accidentally drove straight into a machinegun battle between Druze and Shiite Muslim militiamen.

"I turned the corner and saw these little blue flickering lights at the end of the street. I thought — My God, are they shooting at me? Then I heard bullets snapping into the head by the car. I just leapt out and I tell you I never ran so fast."

Car thefts are part of a west Beirut crime wave aggravated by the collapse of the Lebanese pound earlier this year.

"Getting your car stolen is as common as catching a cold," said Nora, a typist who mainly offered 5,000 pounds (\$285) for the recovery of her car to the militiamen she suspected of stealing it.

Another theft victim who discovered the criminals' identity only recovered his car after paying.

U.S. accused of firing at Libyan planes

ABIDJAN (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi was quoted Sunday as saying that United States fighter jets fired at a Libyan plane on a routine reconnaissance flight over the Mediterranean just before his current West African tour.

Accra Radio, monitored in Abidjan, quoted Col. al-Qaddafi as telling reporters on arrival in Ghana Saturday for a three-day visit that Libya's air force would "do its best to protect the country's territorial integrity."

"Libya will never be frightened by the repeated acts of aggression by the United States," Col. al-Qaddafi said.

He flew into Ghana from Mali on the third stage of a tour which began in Senegal last Monday and

which has centred on ways of ending Chad's civil war.

The radio reported him as repeating Libya's readiness to contribute to a peace-keeping force in Chad — in idea which Chadian President Hissene Habre has rejected.

He condemned France, Chad's former colonial ruler, for "trying to partition Chad into two states." He said the Chadian problem was an entirely African issue and any foreign intervention would hinder a solution to its 20-year-old civil war.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) Saturday charged that the United States was deploying naval and air forces off the coasts of Libya and the Greek Isl-

and of Crete.

The agency claimed that five U.S. aircraft have been conducting reconnaissance missions of Libya's coast.

The reported deployment, JANA further said, was part of a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian plan to "wage war against the Libyan Arab people."

Libya has said that Egypt planned a military attack on its Western neighbour and rival, Egypt stepped up its troops along the border immediately following the bloody hijacking of an Egyptian jetliner in Malta two weeks ago, charging that Libya was behind the incident.

Egypt has denied, however, that it intended to attack Libya.

Sudanese troops reportedly kill 400 rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — At least 400 rebels were killed when they clashed with government troops in the Blue Nile province south east of Khartoum last Thursday, daily "Al-Sahafa" newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper said six army servicemen were killed in the battle and four wounded.

The state-owned paper had reported Saturday that almost 50,000 civilians had fled the area, near the border with Ethiopia, in anticipation of imminent clashes between government and rebel troops. It said 10,000 rebels recently attacked Sali, a village south of Khartoum.

Reporting from Khartoum, a town on the Ethiopian border 370 miles (592 kilometres) south east of Khartoum, the paper said the army was in full control of the situation, but did not elaborate.

It said all schools south of Khartoum were closed and that contacts were underway to absorb them in towns north of the fighting area.

Al-Sahafa Saturday quoted Gen. Abdul-Rahman Swareddahab, head of the ruling Transitional Military Council, as saying Col. Jaafar Garang, leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), planned to step up military operations.

Col. Garang's movement have been fighting since 1983 for southern autonomy and political and economic development.

A broadcast from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army's clandestine radio station, based in Ethiopia, confirmed Friday that SPLA forces had moved into the area but said they would fight only if attacked.

The government declared Khartoum an "area of operations" when it evacuated civilians last week after nearby villages.

Al-Sahafa reported Saturday that Defence Minister Osman Abdullah said the rebels had planned land mines along the road north of Khartoum, which had wounded seven soldiers. Travellers from the area said two civilians also were killed by rebel land

mines.

Meanwhile Sudan has accepted the mediation of South Yemen to improve relations with its southern neighbour Ethiopia, the Sudan News Agency said Saturday.

SUNA quoted Gen. Yousef Hussein, spokesman for the ruling Transitional Military Council, as saying that Gen. Swareddahab had received a message to that effect from South Yemen's President Ali Nasser.

It was unknown if a similar approach had been made to Ethiopia.

SUNA said South Yemen's offer was delivered by its Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Ali Dali who departed Friday after a three-day official visit.

Gen. Swareddahab led the April 6 ouster of former President Jaafar Numeiri who regarded Ethiopia as a bitter enemy which trained southern Sudanese dissidents and allowed them to launch attacks on government troops from Ethiopian soil.

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2 Kuwaitis get 2 years jail term

KUWAIT (AP) — Two Kuwaiti men were sentenced Sunday by the state security court to two years in jail on charges on subversion, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Court President Gbazi Al-Sammar acquitted two other Kuwaiti men, who also tried on similar charges.

Mr. Sammar said the convicts belonged to an underground group that sought to "undermine the constitutional institutions of state by illegitimate means," the agency said.

The convicts were identified only as Ahmad Akbar Haidar and Saleh Ahmad Hussein.

The purported underground group was not identified. But court sources noted that similar charges were raised in previous security court trials against operatives allegedly belonging to the Iranian-backed Al-Dawa party.

Egypt reserves judgement for Dec. 28 against Sinai killer

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian military court has reserved judgement for Dec. 28 against an Egyptian policeman who shot and killed seven Israeli tourists in the Sinai, according to the defendant's lawyer.

Lawyer Emad Al-Sohky told the Associated Press that military prosecutors are charging Sulaiman Khater, a member of the General Security Forces, with murder without premeditation connected with attempted murder. Mr. Sohky said the charge was punishable by death.

Thousands of Spaniards marched through Melilla Friday in support of the law.

Muslim shops in Melilla shut down Saturday in protest at Friday's demonstration, which Muslim leader Aomar Mobamedi Duda said was "racist and fascist."

Morocco has not pressed too strongly its sovereignty claims over the cities, controlled by Spain for more than four centuries, but has warned it would do so when Spain recovered the British colony of Gibraltar.

The city comes to a standstill whenever militia fighting erupts. Panicking pedestrians risk being run over as cars speed to safety with horns blaring.

Even in times of relative quiet, the effects of 10 years of civil war keep some neighbourhoods virtually paralysed.

Some streets are blocked by earthworks, checkpoints, barbed wire — even tanks — and dozens of fire lines with metal posts, chains and earth-filled oil drums to stop would-be car bombers.

In mainly Muslim west Beirut, stalling ground for half a dozen militiamen, traffic lights stopped blinking years ago.

Public transport is another casualty. Dozens of buses used as barricades lie rusting on the "Green Line" front, although in Christian east Beirut the dominant militia runs a skeleton service in some areas.

West Beirut traffic police can only watch when car-borne gunmen fire machineguns skywards to clear their path.

"Whenever I see these crazy people coming, I tell my pupil to pull over and watch how not to behave," said Samir, a driving instructor who declares war has put him out of a job.

"If a beautiful girl comes for lessons, some of us will not accept her for fear she might be kidnapped. And if we do take her, she must remove her jewellery because of the thieves."

Normal rules of the road are ignored, possibly because young drivers are unaware they exist. Driving licences can be bought for 700 Lebanese pounds (\$40) on the black market and boys can drive trucks with impunity.

But fighting remains the biggest risk on the road.

Gerard, a businessman, almost lost his life when he accidentally drove straight into a machinegun battle between Druze and Shiite Muslim militiamen.

"I turned the corner and saw these little blue flickering lights at the end of the street. I thought — My God, are they shooting at me? Then I heard bullets snapping into the head by the car. I just leapt out and I tell you I never ran so fast."

Car thefts are part of a west Beirut crime wave aggravated by the collapse of the Lebanese pound earlier this year.

"Getting your car stolen is as common as catching a cold," said Nora, a typist who mainly offered 5,000 pounds (\$285) for the recovery of her car to the militiamen she suspected of stealing it.

Another theft victim who discovered the criminals' identity only recovered his car after paying.

The thefts have forced many affluent Beirutis to store away their Mercedes and use only battered second-hand models.

In the evening, west Beirut resembles a ghost town as civilians leave the streets to the militias and the footpaths.

Police, who decline to discuss other aspects of traffic, cite the drop in night traffic as the major reason for a 70 per cent fall in Lebanon's road accident rate during the civil war.

Police figures show that in 1974 there were 4,508 accidents and 443 road deaths in Lebanon. The 1984 figures show 1,268 accidents and 269 deaths.

High-powered American, Japanese and European cars jam east Beirut streets late at night, but motorists are at the mercy of toughs who speed wildly up the coast road — one of the few in the Beirut area unencumbered by roadblocks.

"You see some guys in big U.S.-made saloons, they look so refined, beautifully dressed and rich, but then you notice how aggressively they drive," said the journalist. "The refinement is just vanish."

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MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran

17:20 Cartoons

17:50 Children programmes

18:10 Different strokes

18:30 Programme on the Armed Forces

19:25 News Programme

19:50 Tomorrow's Programmes

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic Series

21:25 Tomorrow's Programmes and Varieties

21:50 Arabic Film

23:00 News in Arabic

23:10 Film continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 Vite au pays

18:30 Jean Piat, Medecin d'aujourd'hui

19:00 News in French

19:20 Magazine Sportif

19:50 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Three Up, Two Down

21:00 Craft Design Technique

Cabinet allocates JD90,000 for environment protection

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday endorsed the allocation of JD 90,000 for the protection of environment as recommended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud.

The allocations will be earmarked to implement a number of pressing projects relevant to the environment and conservation.

The Cabinet also allocated a

total of JD 40,000 for Al Humra services council in Salt in order to open a new asphalted road to a garbage dump in the area. The project will be sponsored by the World Bank through a loan to the Amman Municipality.

Another JD 10,000 was earmarked for Ajloun, Ein Janna, Anjara and Kafanja areas which will be provided with a tractor and snow plough.

Kana'an briefs visiting Swedish delegation on developments in the occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an Sunday received a visiting delegation from the ruling Democratic Socialist Party in Sweden and briefed them on the arbitrary measures practiced by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting Dr. Kana'an outlined the activities and services that the ministry provides to Arab citizens in the occupied lands to help new steadfastness in the face of Israeli malpractices. The minister also pointed out that the ministry offers services to the Palestinian refugee camps in the East Bank in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Explaining the economic conditions in the occupied Arab lands, Dr. Kana'an pointed out that the Israeli authorities are attempting to incorporate the Arab economy into the Israeli economy and added that the Israeli authorities prevent Arab citizens from setting up factories and corporations which affect the marketing of Israeli products in the

occupied territories. The continuing work of Jordanian institutions in the occupied West Bank, to a large extent, helped solve the problems of Arab citizens, the minister said. The Jordanian government, he continued, allow the transport of 50 per cent of agricultural products from the West Bank via the two bridges for marketing in the East Bank and neighbouring Arab countries in order to support the Arab economy in the occupied territories.

Dr. Kana'an also outlined the Israeli settlement policies which he said use illegal pretexts such as the seizure of land for security reasons or appropriating lands belonging to absent persons in order to set up Israeli settlements.

Dr. Kana'an went on to say that the Israeli authorities impose heavy taxes on Arab citizens and institutions and at the same time spend very little on general services in Arab towns and villages.

Regarding education, the minister added that the Israeli authorities periodically close down Arab universities and educational institutions to impede the progress of Arab students.

Haj Hassan discusses plans for child welfare centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the Swedish Save the Children Fund Organisation Rada Barnen Sunday briefed Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan on the organisation's plans to establish a centre in Jordan for the welfare of children.

Mr. Haj Hassan announced last month that the organisation was planning to set up the centre which will include units for health education, a laboratory, and other facilities, including one for the early discovery of handicaps in children. Earlier, a cabinet decision was made approving a draft agreement, which is due to be signed by the two sides soon.

The projected centre will also include a research unit which will draw up specialised studies in child welfare. This unit will also analyse data and holding seminars on training personnel in social and health welfare in Jordan.

At the meeting on Sunday, the minister voiced Jordan's deep appreciation to the Swedish organisation and said his ministry will offer all the necessary facilities to help the organisation's projects. The establishment of the centre was agreed upon during Her Majesty Queen Noor's visit to Sweden last year and will be carried out in implementation of a memorandum of understanding signed with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which will run the centre.



Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Sunday receives North Yemeni Minister of Economy and Industry Ahmad Jaid Barakat (second from right). Also present are Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher (second from left) and North Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abdullah (left) Petra photo

CAEU ends session with call for greater economic aid to W. Bank, Gaza Strip

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) concluded its meetings Sunday with an appeal for Arab member-states to further support the Arab population in the Israeli occupied territories by opening their markets to products from the West Bank and Gaza Strip while taking into consideration decisions relevant to the Arab boycott of Israeli products.

Winding up their two-day meetings, the CAEU also ratified the forthcoming 1986-1990 working plan and \$2,173,834 budget for 1986. The meeting also endorsed the continuity of the council's 1985 plans and programmes.

Another resolution adopted by the council was to assign experts from member-states to draw up inter-Arab working papers on each country's planning experience as well as its future out-

look with the aim to arrive at pan-Arab coordination and integration in all fields. The 44th session, which was chaired by Syrian Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Al Imadi, recommended the establishment of a follow up committee to tabulate data and information to and arrange documents for the implementation process.

A key resolution of the meeting called on the general secretariat to initiate a study on areas of cooperation in order to start common Arab ventures. The study will be within the preparations for the meetings of Arab Ministers of Planning.

The council referred a survey on industrial systems and legislation of member countries to the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) and member governments. The need to maintain coordination with the AOID in all interests of mutual concern

was also highlighted and another decision called for the continuation of efforts to prepare a charter for Arab agricultural integration.

The council endorsed the concept of setting up of an Arab common market in accordance with recommendations issued previously and to expedite steps of the integrated programme in order to promote inter-Arab trade exchange to be put into effect in the near future.

Participants stressed the need to adopt a unified Arab economic policy in order to protect Arab products from competition with those from foreign countries.

Following the meetings, participants sent cables of appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The next ministerial gathering is due to take place here in June next year to review the achievements of the council.

Rifai, N. Yemeni minister review bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Sunday met with North Yemeni Minister of Economy and Industry Ahmad Jaid Barakat for discussions on economic and trade relations between Jordan and North Yemen and reviewed progress of meetings currently being held in Amman by a joint committee grouping officials from the two countries.

During the meeting, which was held at the prime minister's office, ways for bolstering bilateral cooperation in economic and industrial fields were discussed. The two sides agreed on the need to offer further facilities to promote the exchange of national products, especially agricultural crops and opening trade centres for the two countries in Amman and Sana'a.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher and North Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abdullah.

Joint committee meets

Earlier Sunday, the joint committee held a round of meetings in which members discussed trade-related issues and ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation. The two sides discussed the subject of exempting national products from customs duties when exported to the other country, topics connected with land and sea transport, organising trade exhibitions and establishing trade centres in each other's capital to promote the sale of national products. The committee also reviewed launching joint agricultural projects, especially in drip irrigation, employing Jordan's wide experience in this field and dispatching Jordanian agricultural specialists to work in North Yemen.

At the meeting, the Jordanian side requested that further facilities be offered in the field of trade, and that Jordanian lorries loaded with national products be

allowed to enter North Yemen. The Yemeni side promised to study this proposal.

Both sides agreed on signing an agreement for organising the settlement of trade payments through the central banks of both countries and for studying joint industrial projects. They discussed agricultural development schemes, including the processing of fodder, and the exchange of expertise in agriculture and encouraging private sectors in both countries to invest in either country's projects. The agreement would also lay the groundwork for the establishment of a joint land transport company.

The Jordanian side to the meeting was led by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher and the Yemeni side was headed by Minister of Economy and Industry Ahmad Jaid Barakat.

Nsour outlines 5-year plan to delegation

Also Sunday, the North Yemeni delegation held talks with Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and discussed cooperation in planning development projects. Dr. Nsour briefed the Yemeni delegation on Jordan's experience and also outlined projects included in the coming five-year national development plan. This plan, he said, envisages the employment of local manpower, creating job opportunities, saving foreign currency reserves, and also aims to focus attention on less-developed regions with the purpose of making a more equal

distribution of development gains and profits, Dr. Nsour explained.

The minister expressed Jordan's readiness to launch technical cooperation schemes with North Yemen, especially in training and the supply of expertise within a framework of a technical agreement signed earlier between Jordan and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Yemeni minister of economy spoke at the meeting, calling for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and expressing his country's desire to develop ties of technical, economic and trade relations with Jordan and benefiting from the Kingdom's experience in planning, industry, education and agriculture.

Cooperation in health

The Yemeni delegation also met with Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and explored prospects of expanding bilateral cooperation in health-related fields.

The delegation discussed in particular expanding a 1982 health cooperation agreement and dispatching Jordanian specialists and physicians to work for one year at the hospitals in Yemen.

Both sides agreed on the need to set up a joint committee to follow up an executive programme for cooperation in health affairs.

On his part, Dr. Hamzeh voiced his ministry's readiness to renew and to expand the health agreement in further manifestation of close cooperation among Arab countries. Jordan and North Yemen signed an agreement in 1984 on joint cooperation in health, economic and technical fields.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has prepared a programme to enable members of the Yemeni delegation to hold a meeting with representatives of the private sector in Jordan and to examine the country's economic developments.

Ministry to establish national centre for standardisation, metrology

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Trade and Industry will soon establish a national centre for standardisation and metrology to act as a unified administrative body for implementing all standardisation and specification laboratories attached to various ministries, the ministry's under secretary, Mr. Mohammad Al Saqqaf, said recently.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the centre will be responsible for setting all Jordanian Arab and international standards and specifications for food, health, agriculture, public works and other areas. These set standards will later be implemented and executed by the concerned ministries and at the same time the centre will be the referee in case any standardisation problem arises.

"The ministry thought that the establishment of such a centre would minimise financial expenditure and would also unify the various ministries' specifications and standards and bring all the required staff together under one central department," Mr. Saqqaf pointed out. The Department of Standardisation and Metrology was first set up in 1972 to function under the umbrella of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and to be a source for setting all trade and import specifications.

The under secretary said that the many and various standards and specifications drawn up by each concerned ministry were due to the rapid socio-economic development but added that there is now a need to establish a centre to be entrusted with unifying all these different specifications.

In a lecture last month, Minister of Trade and Industry Rajai Al Muasher emphasised that the government is well aware of the need to establish such a centre which, he said, will focus on coordinating between local, Arab and international standards and specifications. He also said that the centre will carry out precise tests on each local industry as well as outlining product specifications.

Mr. Saqqaf added that the projected centre will also help in setting up standards and specifications for all local industries, that it will help upgrade the standard of Jordanian industries and will also facilitate the export process.

425 standards

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has currently 425 standards and specifications governing the Kingdom's various imports, plus the specifications of Jordanian goods. These 425 specifications, apart from the other standards set by various ministries, have prompted it to set up a unified national centre for specifications, standards and metrology, the under secretary stressed.

Referring to a recent report carried in the local Arab dailies on

violations of standards regarding a number of goods produced in Jordan, Mr. Saqqaf said that a campaign conducted by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply found that some products including cooking oil, electricity cables, "Bic" lighters and "Wet" batteries were below the set standards.

Explaining about the Jordanian specifications he said that they are usually fixed by the department in cases where the local product has no equal Arab or international specification. "Special regulations are set to govern the amount of ingredients in each product, its standard weight and other specifications," he continued.

An Arab specification is drawn up for a product which is not of foreign origin, such as Turkish coffee. For example, Turkish coffee could be categorised into three types with three specifications: medium, normal or burnt roast. These three types of coffee have been an Arab specification for coffee roasting.

Eventually, all Arab, international or Jordanian specifications depend on certain known factors of ingredients and weight. Mr. Saqqaf stressed that all imported goods should at least conform to either the Jordanian, Arab or international standards and specifications.

Supply violations

Mentioning the trade and supply violations and their respective penalties as stated in the 1972 law for standardisation and metrology, he said that export violations are dealt with by re-exporting the goods. As far as violations carried out by local industries, the firm is either fined.

The American College of Switzerland (ACS) Leysin, Switzerland

Miss Laura Wallingford, ACS's Director of Admissions, and Hisham Abou Rafeh, Assistant Director of Development and Fund-Raising, held a reception on Dec. 4 at the Intercontinental Hotel in order to reacquaint former students with ACS and their class mates. At the same time it was the right moment to meet parents of new applicants and answer their questions.

They also visited various schools introducing new students to the ACS and they met with people concerned at the Jordanian University in order to start an exchange of professors' and students' programme.

handed, closed down or referred to the military courts.

Mr. Saqqaf also said that the government is currently studying the possibility of implementing a new law for industry, which will consider reorganising local industries and will also set rules and regulations for operating and protecting new industries. Many industrialists believe that the current law governing the establishment of new industries has failed to organise and protect industries since it grants licences randomly and because it does not limit the number of each industry needed to fulfil the local market's needs. However, Mr. Saqqaf expressed hope that the law will soon be modified to suit the market and to organise industries in relation to the demand for products.

Dr. Muasher had earlier said that any requests for industrial licences will be given due attention in order to avoid previous industrial problems which were caused by unplanned studies and by issuing industrial licences without carrying out any feasibility studies. But the under secretary did not specify period of time needed to modify the law as he said that a lot of consultations and further studies need to be conducted prior to the announcement of the new law.

Greengrocers instructed to display prices of all goods

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has asked merchants and grocers to fix prices for all commodities on sale in their stores and warned that violators of the ministry's regulations will be prosecuted.

A ministry spokesman said that the recent cabinet decision to scrap a pricing system for fruits and vegetables covers only locally-grown produce and that the prices will remain fixed for imported crops. The spokesman added that lists of prices for such commodities will be issued by the ministry on a regular basis and will appear in the local daily newspapers and therefore must be followed by greengrocers. The ministry has already entrusted teams to make inspection tours of various areas to ensure that these regulations are respected, the spokesman continued.

He said that it is up to the merchants and the greengrocers themselves to fix suitable prices for their locally-produced crops, provided that they display the prices in their stores.

Ministry, Alia to improve air mail postal services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications, in cooperation with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has finalised a plan for expanding the distribution of air mail directly to 75 destinations around the globe.

The ministry's under secretary, Mr. Mansour Ibn Tarif, said that until October 1985 Jordan used to dispatch air mail directly to 50 destinations. Now, arrangements

have been made to carry the mail directly to 75 destinations without it having to pass through another point where it is re-sorted out and sent out again. Mr. Ibn Tarif added.

He said that it took four months to make the new arrangements and that it should soon be possible for a letter to reach its destination the day after it has been posted in Amman.

Hmoud inspects services in Bani Hamideh, Madaba area

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud Sunday made an inspection tour of Bani Hamideh district near Madaba and said that his ministry is keen on improving all types of services to all regions of the Kingdom in implementation of the directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein.

During the tour, the minister heard a briefing on the region's needs and the projects which would improve services and raise the social standard of the local population.

Mr. Hmoud earlier chaired a meeting in Madaba, attended by district governor Abdul Halim Al Awwad, during which a number of issues were discussed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves cabinet's appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday approving a cabinet decision to appoint Dr. Abdullah Haroun Al Jazi as director of the Jordan Hijaz Railway.

Institute graduates aviation trainees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Noor Civil Aviation Training Institute Sunday graduated 24 male and female trainees who had completed courses in air traffic control and wireless equipment maintenance. The trainees received theoretical as well as practical training on air navigation, air traffic control and other related subjects. The institute offers training to personnel from Jordan and other Arab countries.

Yarmouk to have agriculture faculty

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Higher Education has approved the setting up of a faculty of agriculture and veterinary medicine at Yarmouk University. A university spokesman said that the premises of the new faculty will be at the university's permanent site and that the university will start preparing studies and plans for the project.

ARA receives palm trees from Oman

A ABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has received the first shipment of palm tree saplings as part of a gift from Oman. The trees will be planted in a national park which was opened in Aqaba on His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday. Weekly shipments of the palm trees will be arriving in Aqaba from now on and the ARA hopes to plant a total of 10,000 palm trees and a similar number of citrus fruit trees in the park.

Cement company makes donation to Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Employees at the Arah company for white cement have donated one-day's pay to drought victims in Sudan. The initiative is in response to the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and appeals made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to support the people of Sudan.

Jordan to take part in T.V. festival

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an Arab television festival which will open in Tunis on Dec. 14. The festival focuses on children's programmes and acting and six prizes will be awarded to the winning productions. Taking part in the event will be the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, and Qatar.

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Israel — from repression to racism

Adam Keller

AFTER a period of relative quiet in the Occupied Territories the situation there has again flared up, and become a central issue in Israeli politics. Major and minor attacks on Israelis in the territories are now common. On the other hand, there have been no more murderous attacks on Israeli civilians inside Israel, such as the one that sparked racist riots in the town of Afulah. The government response, in which Defence Minister Itzhak Rabin has played a major role, has been a blatant toughening of repressive measures against the Palestinian population as a whole.

Administrative detentions without trial and deportations, whose use was, ironically, suspended by the Begin government, have been in record use. A large number of paratroopers and border guards have been moved into the Occupied Territories and instructed to carry out constant searches, to harass and to shoot at anyone engaged in "suspicious activity." Several Palestinians were killed or wounded while trying to escape soldiers, and several reports on the mistreatment of Palestinians have come out in the Israeli papers.

These measures, all proposed by Labour ministers, are warmly adopted by Likud ministers. Thus the "national unity government" gives a real demonstration of unity on this count. Yet some Likud proposals continue to be blocked by liberals — for instance, the introduction of the death penalty for "Arab terrorists" and denying deported Palestinians the right to appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court.

While introducing tougher measures against the Palestinian population, Rabin has consistently refused to accede to the demands of Gush Emunim settlers. This came as an unpleasant surprise to the settlers, accustomed to getting anything they wanted from all governments.

Both Labour and Likud, including the government that was headed by Rabin himself, Gush Emunim's most immediate objective is to take over the Casbah (marketplace) in the ancient quarter of Hebron. This move would bring about unity among the settlers, now warring in Hebron among themselves, while tearing out the commercial heart of Arab Hebron. So far Rabin has shown no signs of giving in to the settlers' efforts to gain the Casbah.

Several right-wing Knesset members who tried to use their parliamentary immunity to establish a "settlement" inside the Casbah were evicted by the army. In general September was not a successful one for Gush Emunim. Vigilante bands formed by it to patrol Arab towns and "keep order" met with strong condemnation from the public and from known Gush Emunim supporters, and had to be disbanded after less than a week.

The cause of West Bank settlement suffered another setback with the ongoing political investigations into Israeli and West Bank Arab land speculators, the most notable of whom is Ahmed Uda, an Arab who became a millionaire by selling West Bank land to Israeli settlers. For many years there have been rumours about the way Arab lands are "bought" by Israeli settlers, but police investigations on this were stopped during the Likud government's tenure.

Now Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev has removed those obstacles. In the Tel Aviv court, the story is unfolding of landowners being forced to sell through brute force and murder threats, as well as other lands "sold" through false signatures affixed to the sale deed. The Likud ministers are furious and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a public speech, called for "hands off the land liberators" — that is, those who "liberate" land from its Arab owners.

Two big questions remain open. Will the police be able and willing to carry out an investigation even when senior political figures, such as Likud Knesset member and former deputy Agricultural Minister Michael Dekel are involved? If it should be proven in court that settlements were built on land stolen from Arab owners, will the government be able and willing to dismantle those settlements and return the land to its owners? The answers are as yet unknown.

Prisons and pardons

Another project initiated by Gush Emunim is the campaign for the release of the imprisoned members of the anti-Arab terrorist underground. This also is not progressing as well as they hoped. Police Minister Bar-Lev proposed to President Herzog that pardons be immediately granted to 400 prisoners, and to a further 2,000 over the next year. Bar-Lev claimed that his proposal was intended to relieve overcrowding in Israeli prisons — which is indeed terrible — and that it had nothing to do with the terrorist underground. But undoubtedly the release of so many

other prisoners would have served as a perfect smokescreen for releasing most of the Jewish terrorists.

President Herzog however, rejected this proposal, and reiterated his position that he would not consider any collective pardons, but would decide on each case on the basis of its own merits. So far he has granted pardons to only one of the Jewish terrorists, Uri Meir, who had served only a few months out of the 30 to which he was sentenced. Four other applications are still being considered by Herzog.

Meanwhile the state prosecution decided to appeal the sentences given to five out of 15 paroled. This means that no pardons for these five can be considered until the supreme court has finished reviewing the cases, and also that no new demonstrations by Gush Emunim would be permitted as it would be considered sub-judice, until the final decision by the court.

This development has apparently caused Gush Emunim leaders to feel that quiet lobbying among KMs and Ministers is not furthering their campaign fast enough. Therefore, they tried to schedule a monster demonstration in Tel Aviv, which was banned by the attorney-general on the grounds that it too would violate the sub-judice principle.

For this ruling, and for the decision to appeal the terrorists' sentences — a perfectly natural one, considering their lightness — attorney-general Zamir was sharply attacked by Likud ministers and right-wing commentators. Very clearly, the right-wingers consider Zamir to be a "leftist" and treat him accordingly.

This was apparent on various occasions, but particularly in the case of the 1983 bus hijacking. In this case four Palestinians hijacked an Israeli bus, and when the bus was re-captured, two hijackers were killed, and two taken captive. The two captives were, however, killed the same night by blows dealt by blunt instruments, apparently rifle or pistol butts. After military censorship was used in an unsuccessful attempt to cover up the affair, it lay dormant for a year and a half while being investigated by a committee, and has now burst open.

At the time of writing, Labour seems to have provoked a crisis intended to bring about both results — the breakup of the coalition with the Likud and a settlement with Egypt on Taba. It remains to be seen whether Peres will indeed go through with this, or whether he will back down at the last moment, as he did during the many crises which erupted in the first year of the national unity government.

The Likud bloc itself is going through both an internal and an external crisis. Herut, the dominant partner in the Likud, is torn by a fierce struggle for its leadership. This struggle broke into the open when the Herut central council was about to approve Herut's merger with the La'am, a small right-wing splinter group. Construction Minister David Levy suspected that the newcomers would strengthen the camp of his rivals Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Shamir. Because of this, Levy's supporters violently broke up the Herut central council meeting.

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Cohen-Avidor, seek to out-Kahane Kahane himself, so as to win the extremists back for the Likud. Ariel Sharon may also be inclined towards this line.

On the other hand, some Likud members support an intense battle against Kahane, emphasising a section in the writings of Zeev Jabotinsky, Menachem Begin's mentor, which calls for Jewish-Arab co-existence under firm Jewish rule. A prominent advocate of this view is Knesset Member Dan Meridor, considered by Yitzhak Shamir to be his own spokesman. David Levy also leans towards this view.

Yet another stand in the Likud is one advocating, quite pragmatically and cynically, an alliance with Kahane. In an interview with Israel Broadcasting, the "liberal" Finance Minister Itzhak Mordechai said he "does not exclude" the possibility of a future Likud minority government holding power via the support of Kahane's party.

Kahane is by no means responsible for all of the manifestations of racism in Israel. He is merely acting as a catalyst for the phenomenon. Spontaneous racist outbreaks, by individuals or groups, continue. At Dimona, in the Negev, Jewish workers began a drive demanding that Arab workers be fired. In Beersheba, hoodlums broke into the dormitories of Arab doctors and nurses in local hospitals, assaulting and wounding several. Police who arrived at the scenes arrested one of the Arab victims instead of the hoodlums.

Some forms of racism are endorsed officially or semi-officially. In Beersheba again, the local Bank Leumi branch forbade Bedouin customers to enter its premises. The department of religious schools in the Education Ministry bluntly refused to carry out the Ministry's directives to organise meetings between Jewish and Arab school children. The department was fully backed by the Chief Rabbinate, which claims that such meetings can lead to "miscegenation." In Kfar Saba, the municipal council proposed a law forbidding Arabs to enter the municipal swimming pool.

This brief survey, far from being comprehensive, is sufficient to show that there are many racist

Terrible price

Several months have passed since the Israeli government announced its new economic policy. In this time the economic planners have been able to point to a considerable lowering of the inflation rate — from 27 per cent in July to less than four per cent in August — as well as to an improvement in Israel's balance of payment. To accomplish this however, working people in the poorer and weaker sections of Israeli society are daily paying a terrible price. Real wages have dropped very considerably, by 30 per cent according to the Histadrut trade union federation, and by 40 per cent according to *Hadashot* newspaper and independent economists. Prime Minister Peres claims real wages have dropped only by ten per cent, but he had to do a very considerable juggling with figures, to get this figure.

The unemployment rate is rising, having passed the 100,000 point for the third time in 20 years, and will rise even more when the intended laying-off of government workers goes into effect. Recent surveys show that social inequality is increasing in Israel: one per cent of the population earns 12 per cent of the income, ten per cent earn 40 per cent of it, and the earnings of 270,000 people (ten per cent of the population) have dropped beneath the "poverty line." The number of such people having risen by 25 per cent since last year.

In the longer term, the rise in unemployment is the most dangerous, not only socially but politically, since unemployment in Israel as elsewhere is the best breeding ground for racism. In the immediate sense, the catastrophic effects of the economic policy are apparent in the almost complete collapse of health services. With continual stress on Peres's budget, patients have been asked to pay for their own medicine. In at least one published case in Jerusalem, a woman died of a heart attack because she lacked money to pay for treatment which is no longer given free.

The private hospitals, to which the Health Ministry is permanently in debt, have developed a method of literally holding patients for ransom. When gov-

ernment funds don't arrive on time, they simply dump thousands of old, chronically ill patients into government hospitals. The plight of these old and uncomprehending people, used as pawns in a bitter and cruel struggle for money, coincides with a government campaign conducted by "the Committee for Saving the Economy" which calls on every citizen to "do his duty to save the economy."

The change in Israeli currency to the new Shekel, worth a thousand old Shekels, is calculated to confuse the public, a large part of which has not yet completely adapted to the switch from the Lira to the Shekel, carried out in 1980. But as one commentator remarked, most of the important deals in Israel are in any case conducted in U.S. dollars and this will probably continue, no matter what the official coinage is.

Israel's dependence on the United States is not a new thing, but it has never seemed so blatant as now. In a television speech, Prime Minister Peres justified his economic policy by saying that the American Secretary of State George Shultz approved of it. American influence is manifested in a thousand ways and in all aspects of Israeli life.

There were tense expectations for the \$750 million grant Finance Minister Mordechai hoped to get in Washington. The trade agreement between Israel and the U.S. went into effect unopposed, despite being known to be one-sided, helping American to the detriment of Israeli industry. A reception was given at Tel Aviv University for hawkish Professor Edward Teller, who praised warmly President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme. The slogan "the American Dream comes true in Israel" is used by the Tadiran company to sell electrical machines. There is a new custom among young Israelis to give their children names like "Tom" for

Kibbutz Francis

Israel's kibbutz movement has suffered many blows and setbacks in recent years. One of the heaviest was inflicted last month when an affair was unearthed, involving fraud, corruption, and stock market speculation with kibbutz movement funds. A member of Kibbutz Ein Harod was arrested. Ein Harod is one of the oldest Kibbutzim and its name has been set down in the annals of Zionist pioneering; for which reason Amos Keinan chose it as a symbol in his well-known book "The Road to Ein Harod." For many people this marks the end of the pioneer.

Economic failures reviewed

KEYNOTE speeches delivered at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) meeting in Amman on Saturday highlighted numerous economic issues faced by Arab countries, largely due to flaws in economic planning. Delegates from rich oil-producing nations, along with those from poor Arab states, listened to the problems that have rendered the Arab Nation's economy weak despite the huge resources and the curses that could bring about economic recovery.

Both the CAEU secretary general and the Syrian minister of economy, pointing to failures by Arab countries to benefit more meaningfully from the boom the Arabs enjoyed in the 1970s, put forth measures that could remedy the situation.

A wide spectrum of issues, ranging from the impacts of the fall of revenues due to the drop in oil production and prices to ways of helping the Maghreb countries overcome a problem of marketing their crops in Europe after Spain and Portugal join the European Community and means to revitalize poor Arab countries' economies and that of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories were discussed at the meeting. The speeches during the debate underlined the need for Arabs to introduce measures for promoting self-reliance and inter-Arab economic cooperation through the Arab Common Market and specialised Arab League agencies. Among obstacles impeding economic progress, delegates said, were the continued civil war in Lebanon, the Gulf war and failure of certain Arab states to honour their commitments.

The meeting seemed unanimous in accepting these points and on the need to plan a joint strategy to guarantee a stronger Arab economy. But where to begin and what to tackle first remain the most pressing questions at the moment.

As the world witnesses a continued tendency among small nations to join forces and forge economic groupings, extending help to one another in times of need and difficulty, inter-Arab cooperation was regrettably allowed to recede over the past years. Not that Arab economists have failed in their endeavours or are unwilling to cooperate, but their efforts are being constantly hindered due to lack of political decisions to back their endeavours and the mistrust and ill-confidence among Arab leaders.

The keynote speeches at Saturday's session called for separating political issues from economic matters for salvaging the Arab economy. It is a good sign to see delegates from countries with politically opposing views agreeing on such basic issues and on ways of handling them.

But perhaps it would be a better policy for all of them to try to implement a series of economic measures which their leaders had agreed on at the Amman Arab summit in 1980 where all were unanimous on joint Arab action to fulfil the nation's aspirations.

Indeed, the delegates meeting in Amman now have a good opportunity to help steer the nation safely through a turbulent world economy reeling from recession and its damaging effects.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: When will the U.S. wake up?

THERE is no doubt that the United States bears a major responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, largely due to the unlimited U.S. support for Israel's intransigence. But U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Friday spoke of other reasons which he said are impeding a settlement in the region. He said that what is blocking the path of peace is problems over Palestinian representation in peace talks and also the difficulty of finding a suitable international formula to supervise the establishment of peace. The facts that Shultz ignored and avoided are clear to all, even to the United States and Israel. It is due to Washington's insistence on ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people and, together with Israel, rejecting the idea of an international conference that is really obstructing the achievement of peace.

One can only wonder what makes the United States so adamant in its wrong stands and why should it impose its tutelage on the international community and continue to deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It is better for Washington to rectify its own policies and adopt a more balanced stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict rather than shift the blame on others if it really is concerned over the establishment of Middle East peace.

Al Dustour: Political unity is the need

AS the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) meets in Amman we remember the numerous Arab meetings to try to initiate meaningful cooperation among themselves in economic affairs, and which all ended in failures. We realise that specialised Arab League organisations exert all possible efforts to bolster inter-Arab economic cooperation and try by every possible means to forge some sort of a unified Arab economic action that can benefit all Arab countries. But unfortunately, such efforts are being wasted and rendered futile due to the lack of a political decision on the part of the leadership of Arab countries, and proper and sound economic strategies which Arab leaders should follow to improve conditions for their people.

All efforts by Arab economists will continue to be wasted and exerted in vain unless Arab leaders take political decisions in support of such efforts. One feels frustrated with Arab policies, many of which lack reason and rationality and are characterised with weakness and backwardness, rendering it is almost impossible to have anything done and success achieved in economic, social and cultural progress. We are living in a modern age which has no room for feeble nations, and it is incumbent upon all Arabs to unify their efforts and pool their resources if they really wish to be counted among the strong.

Sawt Al Shaab: Economy is the backbone.

MINISTERS now attending a meeting by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) in Amman have an opportunity to forge inter-Arab cooperation in economic fields and have a chance to help Arab states overcome the current effects of the economic recession. Their meeting comes at a critical moment when the Arab countries are widely divided by differences of views not only on political affairs but also on economic issues that form an ingredient of political matters. Their meeting comes at a moment when the Arab Nation is reeling under the effects of the world economic recession, and when the Arabs, divided as they are, continue to face ferocious and greedy enemies. No matter how many meetings the economists hold, their efforts will not achieve results unless such efforts are backed by political decisions by Arab leaders supporting joint Arab action in economic fields regardless of differences of opinion among them in political fields.



The committee recommended that Brigadier-General Itzhak Mordechai, the commander of the elite paratrooper corps, be court-martialed for personally having hit the captive hijackers. The committee exonerated him however, of causing their deaths, claiming it was impossible to distinguish between the blows inflicted during the battle for the capture of the bus and those inflicted later during "interrogation."

Mordechai was to be court-martialed merely for "causing a grave injury" and for "conduct unbecoming an officer." Even the acceptance of these watered-down recommendations brought on attorney-general Zamir the fury of the right-wingers.

Army authorities turned the whole proceedings into a farce. Major-General Nadel, himself a former paratrooper, completely acquitted Mordechai, after a "fair trial" held behind closed doors, and lasting less than half a day. The saddest part in the whole affair was that played by KM Ran Cohen of the Civil Rights Movement (CRM). Cohen, a reserve colonel, is himself a member of the paratrooper corps and has personally served under Mordechai. Like his conduct during the 1982 siege of Beirut, Cohen let his army loyalties sway his political judgement. He came out in public support of Brigadier Mordechai, giving the right-wingers unexpected support from the left.

Hawkish Labour

In a recent speech at the closed Labour Party forum Prime Minister Peres was reported to have said: "We cannot change the people, therefore we must change the Labour Party to conform to the people." Certainly some of the actions taken by the Labour Party seem to indicate a policy of conforming to what Peres conceives "the people" want — a tougher, more hawkish, more anti-Arab line. Such are the new measures taken in the Occupied Territories. Let's take, for example, the de-

manifestations for which Kahane is not responsible. Nevertheless, Kahane has become the symbol of racism, the focus against which it is most convenient to organise.

The "spirit of Afulah" — the spirit of the infamous riots and anti-Arab programme — has found its adequate answers in the "spirit of Givatayim." When Kahane announced his intention to hold a rally in Givatayim, a suburb of Tel Aviv, and a traditional stronghold of the Labour Party, the local Labourists, led by Mayor Itzhak Yaros, were scandalised. Displaying a militancy which was thought to be long extinct in their party, they organised a strong counter-demonstration, forcibly dispersing Kahane's supporters, and literally running Kahane out of town. But Kahane has not given up. He has scheduled another rally in Givatayim, and the anti-racist alliance is preparing another "welcome" for him.

As far as the Israeli public is concerned, the Labour war is over. Indeed, government spokesmen regularly proclaim this as one of the government's biggest achievements. In fact, this is not so at all. Israel still occupies a large slice of Lebanese territory — the so-called "security belt." And in this territory, a barbarous guerrilla war is still being waged, car bombs driven by kamikaze-style suicides continue to explode, and blood continues to flow.

The only difference is that this blood, with very few exceptions, is no longer Jewish blood. In the Arab mercenaries of the "South Lebanese Army," the Israeli government has found the perfect expendables, whose deaths receive no more than a few lines on the last page of Israel's newspapers and cause no political repercussions whatsoever. Thus, by some cruel irony, Israel's Lebanese mercenaries, the very group whom other Arabs may justly accuse of treason, become victims of racist attitudes prevalent in Israeli society.

Rampant racism

Most of Kahane's new strength comes from former Likud rank-and-file. No wonder, then, that Likud leaders are increasingly concerned about Kahane and the strategy to be chosen regarding him. Some of them, such as Deputy Knesset Speaker Meir

Dependent on the U.S.

Israel's dependence on the United States is not a new thing, but it has never seemed so blatant as now. In a television speech, Prime Minister Peres justified his economic policy by saying that the American Secretary of State George Shultz approved of it. American influence is manifested in a thousand ways and in all aspects of Israeli life.

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For many years the religious parties have been able to achieve practically anything they desired. But there is one thing they never attempted: To interfere with the soccer matches held on the Sabbath. Soccer seems to be the true religion of many Israelis, and no politician has ever dared to dabble with it. Shimon Peres, desperate to obtain religious support for a possible Labour government, tried to pressure Uri Amit, the Mayor of Labour-held Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv, to forbid soccer matches in the Ramat Gan Stadium, the finest in Israel, which has just been renovated at a cost of \$5 million.

By an old agreement, dating back to David Ben-Gurion's time, the stadium was not used on the Sabbath, and the religious parties, have clamoured against this violation of the status quo. However, it soon turned out that Uri Amit had no power to prevent the matches, as the municipality had already leased the stadium to the Israeli Soccer Association, giving it the right to hold matches on all days of the week. Thus the soccer matches do take place on the Sabbath, and Peres has incurred the enmity of soccer fans without gaining the favour of the religious parties.

Another religious issue, which has aroused public attention concerns, again, the Ethiopian Jews, whom the Chief Rabbinate refuses to recognise as Jews, demanding that they undergo "ritual conversion" to Judaism before being married. What the so-called "compromise" obtained for them by Prime Minister Peres turned out to be a sham. The Ethiopian staged a mass sit-in strike at the Chief Rabbinate's head-quarters in Jerusalem.

The Ethiopians have resisted all efforts to spur them to their strike, and great deal of time and money has been wasted in the process. The time has come when the third world must be taken into account.

Platini leads Juventus to Toyota Cup victory

TOKYO (AP) — Italy's Juventus won the Toyota Cup by beating South American Champions Argentinos Juniors 4-2 on penalty kicks Sunday after the two teams battled to a 2-2 tie in the regulation 90 minutes and 30 minutes of extra time.

The Turin-based Juventus became the first European team to win the Toyota Cup since 1980, when the home-and-away competition was altered to a one-match contest in Japan, a neutral site.

All the goals were scored in the second half of regulation time. Juventus was powered by French virtuoso Michel Platini, 30, who scored his team's first goal on a penalty and assisted in the other. Platini, who also kicked in the clinching shot when each team was given five penalty shots to decide the game, was selected most valuable player and given a Toyota car.

The Toyota Cup, emblematic of the world's best club soccer team, adds to a Juventus trophy collection that also includes the UEFA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and the European Super Cup. Juventus currently is headed for an unprecedented 22nd Italian league victory.

"I am proud that we played such a good game of international soccer here, although our game at Brussels was unfortunate," Platini said. When Juventus defeated Liverpool for the European Champions Cup in May at the Heysel

Stadium, one of the worst soccer riots in history left at least 39 people dead.

"The Argentinians played very well, especially the centre (Claudio Borghi)," Platini added.

Playing before 62,000 spectators at Tokyo's National Stadium, Argentinos and Juventus started slowly and cautiously, trying to measure each other and apparently affected by a wet pitch from an overnight rain.

Ten minutes into the second half, Argentinos midfielder Mario Videla trapped a pass from Jorge Olguin and lobbed the ball into the Juventus penalty area. Forward Carlos Echerro shot it past Italian goalie Stefano Tacconi.

But Juventus came back eight minutes later, when West German referee Volker Roth called a foul against Olguin in his team's penalty area. Platini scored on the penalty kick.

In the 75th minute, Jose Castro received a well-placed pass from Claudio Borghi, dribbled past a Juventus defender to the right side of the goal and put in a perfectly angled shot, putting the Argentinians back in the lead.

However, Danish striker Michael Laudrup saved the game for

Juventus when he received a forward pass from Platini, took the ball past Argentinos goalkeeper Enrique Vidalle and pushed the ball into the net while losing his balance in the contest with Vidalle.

Two 15-minute periods of extra time ended without decisive plays. In the penalty contest, Sergio Brio, Antonio Cabrini, Aldo Serena and Platini scored for Juventus, while Laudrup's shot was caught by Vidalle, Olguin and Jose Lopez scored for Argentinos, while shots by Sergio Batista and Jose Pavoni were saved by Tacconi.

"We were able to perform our utmost," Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni said. "I am glad we showed a good example of modern soccer by leaving the players to decide whether to play zone defence or one-on-one."

Argentinos captain Adrian Domenech said, "Of course we regret losing the match. But we are proud to have played a close contest against the world's strongest team."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Auburn's Bo Jackson captures Heisman

NEW YORK (AP) — Bo Jackson, the senior tailback from Auburn, was awarded the 1985 Heisman Trophy Saturday as the nation's outstanding college football player in the closest vote in Heisman history. Jackson, who has been projected by National Football League scouts as the top pick in next spring's draft, won by 45 votes. Quarterback Chuck Long of Iowa was the runnerup in the nationwide balloting. The award, presented by the Downtown Athletic Club, last year went to Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie.

F.A. Cup draw favours the favourites

LONDON (AP) — Holder and league leader Manchester United, its nearest rival Liverpool, and league champion Everton all were handed easy home ties when the draw was made Saturday for the third round of the English F.A. (Football Association) soccer cup. The Manchester side, which beat Everton in last year's final at Wembley, has to play the winner of a second round replay between two fourth division sides, Scunthorpe United and Rochdale. Liverpool hosts Norwich City, which won the Milk Cup — also at Wembley — last season, but then slipped into division two.

Werder Bremen maintains lead

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Frank Neubarth scored a hat trick to lead Werder Bremen to a 3-1 victory over Schalke and maintain his injury-depleted team's three-point lead in the West German first soccer division Saturday. Defending champion Bayern Munich thrashed Bayer Uerdingen 5-1 at home to climb one place on the table to second and keep the heat on Bremen.

Napoli cuts Juventus' lead to 3 points

ROME (R) — Napoli scored twice in the last 13 minutes to beat AC Milan 2-0, delight their supporters in an 80,000 crowd and cut Juventus' lead at the top of the Italian first division to three points Sunday.

Juventus, the Italian league leaders and European Cup holders, beat South American Champions Argentinos Juniors of Argentina in Tokyo earlier Sunday to win the World Club Soccer Championship. They will play their postponed fixture against Sampdoria on Dec. 31.

In northern Italy's top of the table clash, Internazionale took an early lead against Torino, but the visitors equalised twice went ahead before settling for a 3-3 draw.

In the Sao Paolo Stadium in Naples, AC Milan's offside trap kept Diego Maradona and his team at bay for three-quarters of the game.

But after 77 minutes the Argentine striker, who only played after an appeals board had reduced his recent suspension from two matches to one, floated a corner beyond Milan goalkeeper Giuliano Terraneo and defender Alessandro Renica was unmarked to nod into an empty net.

Ten minutes later Italian midfielder Salvatore Bagni broke clear on the left, jinked into the penalty area and beat Terraneo with a low cross shot to make it 2-0.

Napoli now have 18 points from 13 games, three behind Juventus but two more than Internazionale in third place.

Internazionale's Irish midfielder Liam Brady put them ahead with a first-half penalty against Torino, after Renato Zaccarelli had brought down West German striker Karl-Heinz Rumenigge, but Torino striker Antonio Comi took a pass from Brazilian midfielder Junior to equalise with a 15-metre drive.

Substitute Vittorio Pusceddu beat Internazionale goalkeeper Walter Zenga from 25 metres to put Torino 2-1 up at halftime. Rumenigge equalised early in the second half but Austrian striker Walter Schachner made it 3-2 to Torino. Finally, Italian international defender Giuseppe Bergomi forced home a 76th minute goal to keep Internazionale in touch with the title race.

Fiorentina and Roma both scraped 1-0 home wins with first-half penalties against Avellino and Pisa respectively. Pole Zbigniew Boniek scored for Roma and Daniel Passarella of Argentina for Fiorentina.

Mexico pairings may spark protest

By Ronald Buchanan
Reader

MEXICO CITY — Next Sunday's World Cup draw could upset soccer traditionalists by putting Brazil in the same first round group as Argentina, pairing Scotland with England, and Poland with the Soviet Union.

The proposed new system for the draw, which is certain to spark controversy, was outlined by Joseph Blatter, secretary general of the International Football Federation (FIFA) when he arrived in Mexico City with FIFA President Joao Havelange Saturday.

Blatter said that under the new format, which is subject to approval by FIFA's World Cup Organising Committee, there would be six seeded nations and three "hats" containing the names of six of the remaining 18 qualifiers. Each of the six first-round groups would contain a seed and one team drawn at random from each of the three hats. Previously, countries from the same region were kept apart in the first phase whenever possible.

The seeds, according to Blatter, will be the four finalists from the 1982 World Cup in Spain — Italy, West Germany, France and Poland — plus hosts Mexico and three South Americans: Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, and the best Europeans — England, Soviet Union and Spain.

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Blatter explained: "The first hat will contain the names of the other three South Americans: Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, and the best Europeans — England, Soviet Union and Spain."

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Latin American nations agree to seek unity for GATT talks

CARACAS (R) — Latin American nations have agreed to seek a united stance at GATT trade talks next year to strengthen the region's bargaining power, officials at a conference of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) said.

"We have a basic agreement on trade which sets the stage for coordinating (the) Latin American position in the GATT," Mr. Miguel Rodriguez, director of the 25-nation SELA, said Saturday.

He said Latin American countries would discuss detailed trade issues at meetings next year to be called by SELA before the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks.

Trade issues and the region's \$360 billion public debt dominated a two-day ministerial meeting last weekend which marked the 10th anniversary of the founding of SELA.

Delegates Friday night also finalised a "Caracas declaration," which attacks industrial nations for failing to honour GATT accords on open markets.

The declaration also for the first time at regional level endorses

retaliatory measures against countries that block Latin American exports.

Cuban Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who took over the presidency of SELA for one year, told reporters the meeting agreed to fully analyse protectionism.

The declaration reaffirmed Latin America's assertion that the public debt problem is a political one and that creditor nations and multilateral financial institutions must assume full responsibility for solutions.

In an indirect reference to the so-called Baker plan, the declaration said it would be unacceptable to add long-term World Bank conditionality to short-term loan conditions applied by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The U.S. plan seeks to combine \$20 billion in new commercial bank lending with additional World Bank loans for development.

Continuing economic adjustment by debtor states is a key part of the plan.

Conference officials said agreement on the declaration had been

delayed by differences between Brazil, which opposes a U.S. proposal to include services and investments on the GATT agenda, and Chile.

Brazil has the most restrictive policy on foreign investment among major Latin American nations.

It fears that the opening of its markets to services would let in a flood of foreign investment in areas such as banking, computers and telecommunications.

Chile, backed by Jamaica and Barbados, argued that the issue of services need not kept off the GATT agenda.

Agreement was reached in article nine of the declaration, which said:

"We denounce the systematic failure by industrial nations to comply with multilateral obligations and are concerned at efforts to include items outside GATT's competence such as services, investments and intellectual property."

The conference agreed to hold a high-level meeting next year to discuss further the issue of services, the officials said.

U.S. businessmen start trade talks in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige arrived in Moscow Sunday for trade talks, accompanied by a large group of businessmen encouraged by the improved East-West climate after last month's Geneva summit.

Some 150 businessmen travelled with him on a special Pan Am charter flight from New York, in itself symbolic of better relations since direct air links between the Soviet Union and United States have been cut for the past six years. They are to resume on a regular basis next year.

A further 250 businessmen were already here for four days of talks starting formally Monday on expanding trade.

The visit is the first major U.S.-Soviet contact since the summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, last month.

It was scheduled before the summit but a council spokesman said the U.S. delegation was bigger than first planned because of the good atmosphere created in Geneva.

It takes place under the auspices of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Eco-

nomic Council, a grouping of private U.S. firms and Soviet state trading bodies.

In a brief airport statement Mr. Baldrige said the council was a "good building block for the future" while a council spokesman said the businessmen wanted to make the most of the "new wave of optimism and new political climate" after Geneva.

The businessmen, representing over 150 firms, will discuss possible new contracts with officials from some 130 Soviet organisations.

Mr. Baldrige was last here in May to resume government-to-government trade negotiations frozen because of tensions over the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the imposition of martial law in Poland.

U.S. officials said he was expected to meet Soviet leaders, including new Foreign Trade Minister Boris Arstov and possibly Mr. Gorbachev.

Last year Washington had a large trade surplus with Moscow, exporting \$3.3 billion worth of goods, mostly grain, and importing products worth only \$350 million.

Egypt considers gradual currency rates unification

CAIRO (R) — Prime Minister Ali Lutfi has said his government plans to abolish gradually Egypt's multi-tiered foreign exchange system and to set a unified price for the Egyptian pound against the U.S. dollar.

"I realise that the existence of three different exchange rates is not practical and causes us many problems and difficulties especially with investors," Mr. Lutfi said in a televised discussion on the economy Saturday night.

"We are in all honesty considering a unified dollar rate and this will be done gradually," Mr. Lutfi added.

Mr. Lutfi said the unified price would be set between the official floating rate, now about 1.35 pounds to the dollar, and the black market rate of 1.80 to the dollar.

The official floating exchange rate was introduced in January to cover worker remittances, investment, tourism and most non-

official business.

For official transactions, the Egyptian pound is officially valued at 83 piastres to the dollar and there is also an official book-keeping rate of 70 piastres to the dollar.

A unified exchange rate would in effect mean a de-facto devaluation of the Egyptian currency.

Strong rumours of a possible flotation in September sent the Egyptian pound to record lows on the black market, traditionally the main source of hard currency for importers.

Mr. Lutfi said the rate of 1.80 pounds to the dollar on the free market was unusual and was caused by heavy demand for dollars

from Egyptians travelling abroad. Western bankers said they expected the unified rate to be set at around 1.50 pounds to the dollar.

Mr. Lutfi said he hoped that a unified rate would encourage more remittances from expatriate workers, whose transfers have dwindled in the past year.

Egypt is also feeling the pinch from declining earnings from oil exports and tourism.

The country's main creditors, the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have urged Egypt to take urgent measures to revise its foreign exchange system and cut generous subsidies on basic foods and commodities.

Egypt's foreign debt has been put by Egyptian officials at just over \$24 billion but the IMF estimates it at \$30 billion.

Egyptian officials say the discrepancy stems from the different exchange rates used in calculations.

Import ban enrages Pakistanis

KARACHI (R) — Pakistanis arriving at Karachi airport smashed radios and other goods in protest at new government import bans, customs officials said Sunday. They said customs seized electric, electronic and cloth goods worth hundreds of thousands of dollars after they were banned without warning last Thursday. The clampdown, which applies to all Pakistanis returning from less than six months abroad, has led to furious arguments between customs officials and travellers unaware of the new regulations.

Yeutter stresses need for more coordination

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter said Saturday that industrialised countries should try harder to harmonise their policies to help stabilise exchange rates and achieve economic balance.

Mr. Yeutter, in a wide-ranging news conference, mentioned the massive U.S. budget deficit and West Germany's record trade surplus as reflections of divergent policies which he said had caused a great deal of economic disequilibrium.

"We need to have finance ministers, central bankers and trade ministers spend a lot more time discussing each other's policies and attempting to reach greater convergence," he said.

Such coordination would help make exchange rates less volatile and "sustain" an economic environment that is at least a little closer to equilibrium than what has prevailed in recent years.

He said West European countries should consider policies to generate economic growth and create jobs, primarily through changes in taxation policy and welfare programmes rather than through major government spending drives.

These policies would in turn strengthen the value of West European currencies against the dollar, Mr. Yeutter said.

Mr. Yeutter said pressure from Congress for protectionist legislation in the United States had eased substantially in the past 90 days in response to the fall in the dollar's value against other major currencies and what he said were improvements in a whole number of existing trade laws.

Arab Gulf states plan higher tariffs on imports

DOHA (R) — Gulf Arab states are considering higher tariffs for imported products which are also produced locally, Saudi Arabian Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Zamel said Sunday.

Sheikh Zamel, in Doha for a two-day conference of industrialists from seven Gulf Arab states, said the step was among measures under consideration to protect local industries.

"We are not contemplating protectionist measures in the real sense... but, rather among other measures, to impose higher tariffs on imports that are produced in the region," he told reporters at the end of the opening session. He did not elaborate.

The conference is organised by the seven-member, Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

In his opening address, Sheikh Zamel urged the big industrial

powers, apparently the United States and European nations, to "change their view towards the Gulf market and industries and to become our industrial and not only commercial partners."

Sheikh Zamel also urged them to stop putting hurdles in the way of Gulf industries, in apparent reference to Saudi's 13.5 per cent tariff on Europe's petrochemicals, an issue which has soured trade relations between the Gulf states and the European Community.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states want free access for their petrochemical products to the industrialised world but this has worried producers in Europe and the United States who fear their industries will suffer.

Other speakers at the opening session stressed the need for further industrial cooperation among the Gulf Arab states and for "checking dumping on our markets by foreign competitors."

They also stressed the role of the private sector in promoting industrial development.

Pravda says U.S. sales may destabilise oil market

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said Sunday the United States was selling around 1.1 million barrels of its crude oil reserves a day and that this might destabilise the world market.

An article, coinciding with a ministerial meeting in Geneva of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said the oil market had stabilised after a steady drop in prices since 1982 thanks to an effort to coordinate and limit supply.

The U.S. action "could have a negative effect on this process," it said.

It also accused "certain Western circles" of trying to exploit differences of opinion within OPEC and to undermine the organisation from within through speculation.

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia has passed key legislation to reform its foreign exchange system as part of plans to stabilise its debt-burdened economy.

Parliament approved three laws on Friday night which oblige exporting companies to funnel all their hard currency earnings into a reestablished inter-bank foreign exchange market from next month.

The laws assert stronger federal control over the hard currency earnings of Yugoslav firms by abolishing their rights to hold foreign currency bank accounts and to retain a portion of their hard currency earnings.

There was an outcry when the government proposed the reforms earlier this year. Two major exporting regions, Slovenia and Croatia, which are relatively pro-

sperous, initially vetoed the draft legislation.

Supporters of the laws Sunday hailed the move as a victory for market-oriented forces and said it would lead in the long term to a more competitive export performance.

The government is trying to promote an export-led recovery to service a \$19 million hard currency debt.

With the dinar falling daily against major currencies, letting companies keep a substantial proportion of their hard currency earnings has led to large-scale unofficial currency trading among firms, and widespread financial speculation.

Full details of the new legislation have yet to be published, but it is known that exporting firms will have to hand over im-

mediately all their hard currency earnings for dinars at the daily exchange rate.

Exporting firms will be able to buy back foreign exchange for their import needs, but if a company fails to reach export targets its foreign exchange allocation for imports will be reduced by the amount of the shortfall.

The government sees reestablishing a functioning foreign exchange market as a step towards the dinar's becoming fully convertible.

Borba, the official daily newspaper of the ruling league of communists, said Sunday the new laws would end the "territorial enclosure" of hard currency caused by firms within any one of Yugoslavia's six constituent republics trading in currency only with companies from the same republic.

Platinum outshines silver, gold

LONDON (R) — With gold and silver prices hogged down by oversupply and high interest rates, platinum is taking over as the brightest investment prospect among precious metals, analysts say.

Precious metals prices have slumped since the heady days of 1980, because high interest rates and low inflation have made other investments appear more attractive.

While gold and silver remain in the doldrums, platinum earlier this month reached its highest level for 16 months on world bullion markets touching \$356 an ounce.

Most analysts said they expected platinum to turn in the strongest performance of the three metals over the next few months and silver the worst.

Platinum prices have been boosted by tight supplies and fears of disruption to supplies from stricken South Africa.

"Platinum has a high exposure to South Africa. Eighty per cent of the western world's production

comes from South Africa," said Mr. Alan Davison of London traders Shearson Lehman Brothers.

While gold would remain in the \$300-\$350 range in the near future and silver might slip below \$6 an ounce, platinum prices would rise, he predicted.

"Platinum has been leading the way for the past six weeks. To the first quarter of next year we will see a sustained recovery," said another analyst who asked not to be named.

Despite lower interest rates and a slumping dollar, factors which normally support gold, the metal has not managed to break out of its recent narrow range of \$300 to \$330.

"Gold is doing appallingly badly considering what has happened to interest rates and the dollar," Mr. Davison said.

Although around 60 per cent of the West's gold is produced in South Africa, fears of disruption there have not had the same effect as in the platinum market, Mr. Davison said.

This was because central banks housed supplies of gold bullion equal to 40 years of South African production, he said.

The market had also been flooded by heavy bullion sales from South Africa and the Soviet

In a market bogged down by chronic oversupply, analysts predicted a bleak future for silver prices.

"Silver's horrible," said Ms. Rhona O'Connell, an analyst with commodity traders Rudolf Wolff. "There are three years of industrial consumption sitting above the ground."

A recent report by Shearson Lehman Brothers said investors were increasingly treating silver as a base rather than a precious metal.

Silver coinage was at the heart of the world's monetary system until the late 19th century, but the metal's value is now increasingly determined by demand in less glamorous uses ranging from fuse wire to X-ray plates.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DEC. 9, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day to investigate the mysterious or whatever you may not understand. You are coming near a sudden event that requires you to make some definite changes in your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An ideal day to talk over responsibilities with others and plan much expansion in the days ahead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get some situation with a partner nicely clarified in your mind, so garner the data you need first.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study different angles in connection with your work so that you can handle it more efficiently.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A fine day for buying presents and planning your itinerary early. You can be happy with friends in the evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Think seriously about how to give great pleasure to members of your family and make definite decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Dig into reports and statements so that you know just what your status is and know how better to proceed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your position in property and financial affairs and then you know how to proceed in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Tap into your subconscious and know what means the most to you and how best to attain your aims.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more progressive in the outside world after thinking out a fine new course of action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your pals can give you good ideas on how best to gain your aims. Show that you have true wisdom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have to be astute in handling career work and gain more profit. Some high gain can open a door to opportunity for you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Bring your finest ambitions to the attention of higher-ups and make the future much brighter for yourself.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very magnetic yet also quite secretive, so teach to cooperate more with others and become a more popular person, and be more direct with others. One who always likes to plan a campaign before putting it in operation, and much can be accomplished.

THE Daily Crossword

by Gayle Dean

ACROSS

- Item of ownership
- See bird
- Like a wet hen
- Dr. measure
- Wood wind
- Lion's locks
- Beauty
- Religious kingdom
- Agalnet
- Now
- First line of quote
- Circumference
- Prolonged account
- Second line of quote
- Iron's resin
- Disputed area
- Rather
- Comic Martha
- Islands
- Decorative snow
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- Supper
- Carved sword
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Filipino opposition hopes fade for united challenge to Marcos

Aquino, Laurel fail to agree on compromise

MANILA (R) — Former Senator Salvador Laurel parted politically Sunday from Corazon Aquino, widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, throwing up the prospect of a divided challenge to President Ferdinand Marcos in elections set for next February.

At a crowded press conference that had been expected to announce Mr. Laurel would take the vice-presidential slot on a ticket headed by Mrs. Aquino, he said she had backed off joint candidacy at the last minute and refused to run under the banner of his United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO).

Mr. Laurel, 57, said they would now run for president separately. He said that after agreeing on Thursday to a joint UNIDO ticket, Mrs. Aquino had "for undisclosed reasons, suddenly changed her mind and refused to run as a UNIDO candidate."

Mr. Laurel added: "This leaves me no choice but to decline her offer to run as her vice-president... without further ado I am therefore filing my certificate of candidacy for the presidency of our republic tomorrow."

His announcement came as a surprise to many opposition leaders who were counting on a united ticket to challenge Mr. Marcos. They also saw Mrs. Aquino as a vote-catching balance to Mr. Laurel, who they say is distrusted

by many voters largely because of past family associations with Mr. Marcos.

"Cory" Aquino, 52, who announced her own candidacy on Tuesday, issued a short statement denying that she had agreed to run on a UNIDO ticket.

She said: "The statement of Mr. Laurel that Mrs. Aquino agreed to run under the UNIDO banner is not correct. The truth is she agreed to run under a UNIDO-Laban banner but that was not acceptable to Mr. Laurel."

Laban—Filipino For Fight—is the acronym of the party which adopted Mrs. Aquino as its candidate. It was also the name of her husband's party.

She summoned an urgent meeting of her allies, among them many influential political leaders who had drafted her as their standard-bearer in the fight against Mr. Marcos, in power for 20 years.

Later, Mrs. Aquino said that to get over the legal obstacles that Mr. Laurel had posed—basically that they would have to register as candidates of the same party—



Corazon Aquino

she had proposed forming a UNIDO-Laban "grand coalition."

"As I have said repeatedly during the past few weeks, these are difficult times for our nation and we are all required to make sacrifices," she said.

"I regret that we have so far been unable to agree on conditions in which this unified ticket can become a reality."

She spoke to reporters in the front garden of her house in north Manila, sitting beneath a huge yellow banner emblazoned with the face of her late husband.

She refused to answer questions.

Mr. Laurel, addressing about 400 supporters in the courtyard of



Salvador Laurel

the family compound in east Manila, declared: "I can sacrifice myself. I can sacrifice my party or my principles."

Though not a member of the National Assembly, Mr. Laurel is president of UNIDO, a coalition of about half a dozen local and regional parties which won about 40 of the 57 opposition seats in the 183-member National Assembly in elections last year.

However, Mr. Laurel did not slam the door on a compromise.

"Anything can happen this week," he said after reading his formal statement. Wednesday is the deadline for filing individual certificates of candidacy.

Shultz trip to Europe emphasizes allied unity

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz leaves for an eight-day trip to Europe Monday, aiming to demonstrate allied unity and emphasize diversity among the Communist nations of Eastern Europe.

His first visit to East European nations since he came to the State Department three and a half years ago takes him to Warsaw Pact states Romania and Hungary and to Non-Aligned Yugoslavia.

Calling the division of Europe artificial and illegitimate, he told a news conference on Friday that the three nations "have each shown that the countries in the Eastern part of the continent have their own identities and aspirations. He said: "My visits there will show that we acknowledge and support it."

His first stop on Tuesday will be in London where he will have talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and address the Pilgrim Society, an organization promoting Anglo-American friendship.

He then attends the twice-yearly meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) foreign ministers in Brussels and visits Bonn and West Berlin before heading for Eastern Europe.

Mr. Shultz described Berlin, where he will make a speech on Dec. 14, as "an inspiring symbol... whose very survival demonstrates how Western solidarity is the key to freedom, prosperity and peace."

He said Western solidarity since the end of World War II had made possible the success of last month's Geneva summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Our hopes for a more constructive East-West relationship depend on the democracies standing firm on basic principles," he said.

His talks in Bucharest will include discussion of congressional efforts to end beneficial U.S. tariff status for Romanian exports because of concern over treatment of religious faiths not recognised by the government.

The Reagan administration opposes cutting off so-called Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status because it is linked to emigration policies that have allowed 150,000 Romanians to leave for the West since 1975.

S. Asia summit ends, leaders hail new era

DHAKA (R) — South Asian leaders hailed a new era of peace and friendship among them when their first summit ended Sunday.

The leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka pledged in a Dhaka declaration to work together for peace and tranquillity in a region where one-fifth of the world's people live.

Adopting a charter which formally launched the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) the seven leaders — two hereditary kings, two military presidents, two elected presidents and an elected prime minister — said a new dawn had broken over the turbulent region.

The two-day summit was the first time leaders of the region had met since the Indian sub-continent was partitioned at the end of British rule 35 years ago.

The final session was preceded by a four-hour river cruise on the paddle steamer *Ostich* during which they put the final touches to the SAARC charter and Dhaka declaration, which formalised an idea proposed nearly five years ago.

Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, host and chairman of the summit, said in a concluding speech which included a poem that the word SAARC was now part of the world's vocabulary.

"It marks the beginning of a new era of mutual cooperation in our region," Gen. Ershad said.

Other leaders described the

results of the summit as an historic turning point for better relations on the sub-continent.

Several warned in their final speeches that much still needed to be done to turn words into deeds and hinted that some tough negotiating went on during the meeting.

"As the conference comes to a close with nearly all of us satisfied with what we have been able to achieve so far, I wonder how posterity will judge the work we have done," King Birendra of Nepal said.

Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, who surprised the opening session Saturday by calling on its largest member, India, to give leadership to SAARC, described the world's latest regional grouping as a "ship" sent into the storm of life.

"We have to freshen it. We have to furnish it. make it travel in the troubled seas around the world, face storms, avoid mutiny on board and let it enter the portals of friendly harbours," Mr. Jayewardene said.

The leaders have decided to hold annual summits from now on with the next meeting in November 1986 in New Delhi followed by a 1987 gathering in Bhutan's capital, Thimpu.

They also selected a SAARC emblem of seven small lamps inside a large circular lamp, a design submitted by Nepal, and decided to establish a permanent secretariat with the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu as the likely site.

Nobel Prize winner calls envoy's decision 'shameful'

OSLO (R) — U.S. doctor Bernard Lown, joint winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, arriving for Tuesday's award ceremony, described the decision by the American ambassador to Norway not to attend as "shameful."

Dr. Lown told Reuters in an interview Saturday night that the decision was a deliberate snub. He said it undermined efforts made by President Ronald Reagan at last month's Geneva summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to reduce world tension.

"This definitely undermines President Reagan's policies," he added.

In Washington, the State Department denied that the absence of Ambassador Robert Stuart amounted to a boycott.

Dr. Lown said International Physicians for the Prevention of

Nuclear War (IPPNW), on whose behalf he and Soviet Doctor Yevgeny Chazov will accept the award on Tuesday, would not involve itself in matters concerning "the cold war."

He was referring to criticism that Dr. Chazov, a deputy Soviet health minister, had joined a campaign to defame dissident physicist and Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov.

West Germany's ambassador to Norway, Harald Hofmann, will not attend the ceremony, an embassy spokesman said. He refused to say if the decision represented a boycott.

Virtually all Warsaw Pact ambassadors will attend Tuesday's ceremony, the first time since Sakharov's wife Yelena Bonner accepted the award on his behalf in 1975.

Paris blast injury toll rises to 35

PARIS (R) — A total of 35 people were injured, 10 seriously, when two bombs exploded in big Paris department stores crowded with Christmas shoppers, fire officials said Sunday.

The officials said 10 people were suffering from serious burns and 25 had been treated for lesser injuries after the blasts in the Galeries Lafayette and adjacent Printemps stores just before closing time Saturday.

The bombs caused panic in the central shopping district around the opera house, as rumours of further attacks and police received more bomb threats.

Police, who stepped up security at airports, embassies and government buildings, said they still had no clear idea who planted the

bombs.

Three claims of responsibility were telephoned to French news agencies but officers said none contained any proof of involvement in the attacks.

The first two claims were made by callers who said they belonged to the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) organisation.

The third was from a man claiming to speak on behalf of the Secret Army or the Liberation of Armenia. French police arrested a suspected former Armenian guerrilla leader 10 days ago.

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Paris has denied responsibility. French television said: "The PLO has always been against this kind of criminal

action," a spokesman for the PLO had said in a statement.

The first bomb went off at 1745 local (1645 GMT) in the basement of Galeries Lafayette, causing a small fire. At least 6,000 people were in the store at the time.

"Suddenly I heard an explosion. I saw a woman running up the stairs, her hair burnt, her body burnt, her leg gashed," one witness said.

Some 20 minutes later, as police, firemen and ambulances rushed to the scene, a second blast shook the Printemps store.

A shop assistant said a fireman who had been called to investigate a suspicious package had taken the full force of the blast, and that a store manager had also been badly injured.

Child survivors of volcano disaster find parents

BOGOTA (R) — All but 34 of 1,000 children who survived Colombia's volcano disaster last month have been reunited with their parents, the head of the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) has said.

ICBF Chief Jaime Benitez, interviewed on local television, dismissed as exaggerated early reports that up to 4,500 children had been separated from their families.

Since an avalanche of mud thundered down the slopes of the Nevado Del Ruiz Volcano on Nov. 13, killing 23,000 people, the ICBF has coordinated a nationwide campaign to pair survivors' names and reunite children with their parents.

Mr. Benitez said he knew of a few cases of children being stolen to sell for adoption but added that this was not a widespread occurrence.

Chinese leader predicts quiet protest anniversary

PEKING (R) — A concerted campaign by top Chinese government officials appears to have defused student protests critical of some aspects of Communist Party political reforms.

President Li Xiangnian Sunday predicted that the anniversary Monday of 1930s student protests against Japanese expansionism would be quiet and Western diplomats said plans for unofficial student rallies appear to have been abandoned.

Reporters asked Mr. Li about the anniversary as he wanted to greet Kampuchean guerrilla coalition leaders including Prince Sihanouk.

"It is not very important. It will be quiet," he said.

Student sources say unofficial rallies were originally planned for Monday to protest against Japanese trading practices and domestic problems including inflation and official corruption.

Communist Party leaders in Peking and elsewhere have held numerous meetings with student leaders to try to head off the unrest and make sure commemorative events are strictly controlled by the party.

Western diplomats said all plans

for unofficial gatherings Monday appeared to have been abandoned because of the immense pressure put on students.

University students in Peking, Xian and Chengdu held unofficial demonstrations in September and October, mixing anti-Japanese slogans with protests against food price rises and official corruption.

Foreign student sources said all was quiet Sunday at Peking University which has been the centre of student unrest in the capital. Official meetings to commemorate Dec. 9 were in progress, the sources said.

Western diplomats said the student unrest was of great significance and concern to the Communist Party because it is the first time criticism of state policies has been aired publicly since the "democracy wall" period of 1979.

Official press reports indicate some students have attacked the open-door economic policies of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as leading to problems.

A letter published Sunday by the Peking Daily and signed by "the student body of Peking University" said: "We are certain that with the party's leadership the reforms will be a great success."

S. African police kill protester after funeral

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Riot police shot dead a black man when a crowd of blacks set alight a black policeman's house after a funeral for a protest victim near Pretoria, police said Sunday.

Police headquarters said a group of blacks who had returned from a funeral in Atteridgeville township returned to nearby Mamelodi township Saturday

evening and refused orders to disperse.

When they set fire to the policeman's house and threw a gasolene bomb at a police vehicle, "police made use of shotguns to disperse the attackers," a wounded man died later in a black hospital, the police statement said.

The funeral was for black student activist Nyemehzi Mndeheli, the Sunday Star said.

Mugabe says Pretoria massing troops on border

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said South African troops were massing near the border between the two countries but his government was prepared to ward off any invasion.

Mr. Mugabe, back Sunday from visits to the Soviet Union and Austria, told a news conference the build-up of Pretoria's forces started after a series of land-mine explosions near the frontier two weeks ago.

South Africa said the mines were planted by black nationalist guerrillas fighting the Pretoria government. It said they had crossed from Zimbabwe, and it warned the Harare government it might pursue them into Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mugabe said he had been told about the South African troop movements before leaving for Moscow. He added: "The army is well aware and to the best of its ability has taken precautions."

"We can't just say South Africa is playing an artificial game. It is a real game... we must be prepared to ward off any war."

Mr. Mugabe said his government took very seriously South Africa's threat to invade Zimbabwe, adding: "We can't sit on our laurels. In fact, South Africa has always effected its threats."

South Africa has invaded Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola and Botswana to attack alleged guerrilla bases. All four states have denied there were guerrilla bases on their territory.

Zimbabwe sent a message to Pretoria after the explosions reiterating that it had not and would not allow the guerrillas bases in the country.

Mr. Mugabe said Pretoria's threat was aimed at intimidating his government into stopping diplomatic, moral and financial support to the guerrillas through the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Nicaragua increases censorship after declaration of emergency

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Since a state of national emergency was declared this fall, the leftist Sandinista government has intensified censorship and extended it from the news media to virtually all publications.

Censorship now includes publications by the Roman Catholic Church, human rights watchdog groups and opposition political parties.

On Oct. 15, the Sandinista government tightened state security with a decree suspending virtually all individual guarantees. One of the new regulations was that any organisation outside the government wanting to make any statement public must first submit it to the censorship bureau.

The bureau, called the Office for Communications Media, is headed by a Sandinista militant named Nelba Blandon, who holds the rank of army captain.

Government spokesmen claimed they needed the special emergency powers to combat a U.S.-supported insurgency.

The same day the government issued that decree, troops entered the office of a monthly magazine called "Iglesia," or "Church," which is part of the archbishopric of Managua.

All employees were evicted, the doors sealed, closed and even Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua, has not been permitted to enter it since. Like most other prelates, Obando Y Bravo has been a strong critic of the government.

Soon after that, com-

munications media agents dressed in military uniform entered the church station Radio Católica and prevented it from broadcasting homilies by Obando Y Bravo from a pilgrimage he made around the country.

The cardinal also still must submit his Sunday sermons for censorship if he wants them broadcast.

Government spokesmen have accused the church leadership of being "conservative" or "reactionary." But the latest steps also have affected leftist critics of the Sandinistas as well.

The Communist and Socialist Parties as well as the far-left movement for popular Marxist-Leninist action have charged that the government in an attempt to halt their bulletins and periodicals has denied them foreign exchange needed to purchase paper and ink from abroad.

The independent Human Rights Commission of Nicaragua, which during the long rule by the rightist Somoza dynasty often denounced abuses against the then-guerrilla Sandinistas, now has been told it must submit its monthly bulletin to the government for censorship.

"As we always have been independent and we search for ways that human rights might be respected, we now also publish the denunciations that they are presented to our offices by Nicaraguan citizens who believe themselves persecuted," Lino Hernandez, the commission's director, said in an interview.

During the final years of the Somoza rule before the Sandinistas overthrew the dynasty in 1979, the commission's office was assaulted by its agents and material confiscated.

Hernandez said the commission's bulletin, however, never has been submitted for censorship to any Nicaraguan administration during more than 20 years in existence.

He said Mr. Blandon told him on Nov. 14 that it must now be censored. "Capt. Blandon told me that I had until Nov. 15 to submit the bulletin for that month for censorship, and not doing so would bring consequences," he said.

"We are prepared to not submit for censorship our bulletin, even if the same thing happens to us that happened to the Archdiocese of Managua, whose offices were taken militarily," he said. The November bulletin has not been published yet.

A secretary who answered the phone at Mr. Blandon's office said she was not available for questions.

Hernandez said repression has increased in Nicaragua since the declaration of the state of emergency.

"Repression has been felt most against the Catholic church and the opposition political parties, since in the month of November alone we received more than 200 denunciations of indiscriminate arrests throughout the country, without the fate of those arrested being known," Hernandez said.

"We have the impression that the government wants to close the small spaces of liberty that still remain in Nicaragua by not permitting criticism in any way," he said.

The October bulletin of the commission listed 78 detentions, mostly people from northern Nicaragua where combat is heaviest between Sandinista forces and the Contra rebels.

Meanwhile, the long-running friction between Nicaragua's only opposition newspaper, La Prensa, and the Sandinistas continues with the government ordering the paper closed for Saturday and Sunday.

Publisher Jaime Chamorro recently sought an injunction from the appeals court in Managua, saying that Ms. Blandon threatened the daily's editors with jail if they continued to provide copies of censored material to foreign diplomats and correspondents.

Since 1982, La Prensa has been closed by the government on four occasions, including the two days this weekend, and on 28 other occasions has chosen not to publish in protest of what it felt was censorship of the majority of its news.

Taiwan breaks ties

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan announced Sunday it was suspending relations with Nicaragua after the leftist Sandinista government established diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China.

Taiwan also lodged a "strong

protest" with Nicaragua government over its action, which the Nationalist government in Taiwan considers "most unfriendly," the Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

It said Taiwan would close its embassy in Managua and withdraw an agricultural and technical mission from Nicaragua. It urged the Sandinista government to protect any Taiwanese who may decide to remain in Nicaragua.

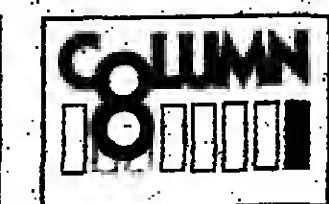
Miguel d'Escoto, foreign minister of the Sandinista government, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian signed a communique in Peking on Saturday establishing the diplomatic ties between their governments.

Mr. d'Escoto said his government severed its ties with Taiwan on Dec. 5, the day he arrived in Peking. But he said he hopes to retain Nicaragua's commercial relations with the Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan in 1949 when they were defeated on the Chinese mainland by the Communists.

Nicaragua's annual trade with Taiwan now total \$10 million, Mr. d'Escoto said.

Nicaragua is the third Latin American nation to switch its diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China this year. The earlier two were Bolivia and Grenada. Uruguay has indicated it also plans to recognise the Peking government soon.

Taiwan's diplomatic recognition has now been reduced to 23 countries, most of them in Latin America, compared to China's 131.



Dr. Reagan gets excited

WASHINGTON — The honorary doctorate recently bestowed on President Reagan by Israel's Weizmann Institute caused the U.S. president much agitation, according to the Hebrew daily Ha'aretz. It quoted U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger as saying that the president had told everyone to call him "doctor" from now on. Dr. Reagan had also expressed the wish that some of his teachers could have been present to witness him becoming a doctor. The paper commented: "He appears to have been a below average student as a young man."

Prisoner leaps from plane and escapes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A handcuffed, shackled prisoner who was being taken to California by a moving plane's emergency exit and fled into the darkness, authorities said. U.S. Marshal Stuart Earnest said the plane contained 44 prisoners Saturday when it touched down at Will Rogers World Airport. No other prisoners tried to escape, he said. Earnest said the escapee, Reginald Still, was en route from a federal hospital in Missouri to Sacramento, California, where he was scheduled to go on trial on a charge of interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle. The plane was stopping over in Oklahoma City, still wearing handcuffs and shackles, leaped out of the plane's emergency exit, onto a wing and then the tarmac as the plane was braking, the marshal said. He estimated that the plane was travelling nearly 80 kilometres per hour at the time of the escape.

Liverpool marks Lennon's death

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Feuding political leaders buried the hatchet and sang Beatles' songs with hundreds of fans and Christmas shoppers at a special ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of the murder of John Lennon. The crowd gathered at the statue to the Beatles in Mathew Street, near the site of the famous cavern club where the four rock stars first made their name 25 years ago. Representatives of Liverpool's three main political parties, who have been feuding for months over a financial crisis which led, this once prosperous northwest port to the brink of bankruptcy, laid bouquets of flowers at the metal sculpture to the city's most famous sons, John Chambers, spokesman for the Liverpool Beatles Appreciation Society which organised the tribute, said the theme was peace and reconciliation. "To use the words of John's song, we're asking people 'To Give Peace A Chance,'" he said.

4 die in Indian bamboo feud

NEW DELHI (R) — Four people were killed and five injured when fighting broke out in a feud over a clump of bamboo trees in an Indian village, the Press Trust of India has reported. The battle erupted between Thakurs, people from a high land-owning caste, and Harijans, India's lowest caste, after a dispute over who had the right to use leaves from the trees. Bamboo leaves are sometimes used in India to make roofs. Uttar Pradesh State Chief Minister Bir Bahadur Singh said he was transferring the entire local police force from the village in Ballia district after being told that a constable was one of those involved in the fighting.

Bullfighter fined for killing bull in ring

LISBON (R) — Portuguese bullfighter Mario Coelho was given a one year suspended jail sentence and fined 60,000 escudos (\$377) for killing a bull in the ring, Coelho, 48, delivered the lethal sword thrust during a bullfight at Moita near Lisbon last year. At the time he was carried shoulder-high from the ring by enthusiastic fans. He said: "My union card says I am a matador de touros (killer of bulls). I am happy. I have already killed more than 700 bulls in Mexico, Spain, Venezuela, Colombia and France." A law passed by Portugal in 1938 forbids the customary killing of bulls in the ring at the end of the fight. In Portugal the animal is slaughtered after the show is over.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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LUCKY ACCIDENT

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q 8 2
♦ Q J 10 6
♦ J 8
♦ K 4 3

WEST ♦ J 7 4 3
♦ A 5 3 2
♦ Q 4 3 2
♦ Q

EAST ♦ 10 9 8 5
♦ 8 7 3
♦ 7 5
♦ 10 8 5 2

SOUTH ♦ K
♦ 5 4
♦ A K 10 9 6
♦ A J 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass Bidde Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

More often than not, if you make an inadvertent bid, you end up paying dearly for the error. So it is a pleasant duty to report a case where just the opposite occurred. It happened at the recent Spring North American Championships in Montreal.

The players were late in getting started and South, Sam Smith of Newton, Mass., intended opening the bidding with one diamond.

To his horror, he heard himself say: "One heart." After his partner